

PENNY ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY NEWS.



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ONE PENNY.

MAY DAY IN THE OLDEN TIMES.

"Beautiful and radiant May,
Is not this thy festival day?"

L. E. L.

THE May-poles and pageantries on May-day, like all other innocent sports and pastimes, are now almost obsolete. It is true that we have pageants and processions still, but only for the sake of money are they kept up. It is impossible to pass over the day without saying a word about its former "mirth and merriment."

It was formerly customary on May morning for people, both in the country and in London, to rise early and hasten to the fields and wash their faces with May dew. In the *Morning Post* of 1791, there is a notice of several persons who went into the fields to bathe their faces, under the impression that it would render them beautiful. Mr. Pepys made an entry in his diary, of his wife's going down to Woolwich for the purpose of gathering May dew.

The most innocent and amusing of all May-day sports, was that of dancing round the May-pole. Of these there were formerly a great many in London; for instance, the Strand May-pole, and Gerrard's Hall May-pole; which latter was said to be the club of Gerrard the giant, whence the hall took its name. In every parish there was a May-pole, which was regularly greeted on May-day; and speaking of Gerrard's Hall May-pole, Stowe says, "It might be, as was the case in every parish, set up every summer before the principal house in the parish or streets," and it seems "it stood in the hall, before the shrine, decked with holly and ivy at the feast at Christmas."

Were it not for Stowe and other historians, we should know little of the customs on this and other days of our ancestors. Instead of May-poles we have the dreary gambols and tinzel fluttering squalidness of the poor chimney-sweepers.

Something like celebrations of May-day still linger in more remote parts of the country, as Cornwall, Devonshire, and Westmoreland.

Besides the before-mentioned custom, they have in Westmoreland a practice every May morning of making folks May goings, which is a custom similar to that on the first of April. This custom prevails till twelve o'clock at noon, after which time none can carry on the sport. And it may be observed, that ploughmen and others decorate themselves with garlands and flowers, and parade through different towns for their "annual collection," which they spend in the evening with their sweethearts at the May-pole.

In many parts, both of Cumberland and Westmoreland, a custom of decorating wells and brooks with flowers exists, which is a relic of the Roman fontanalis, religious festivals held in honour of the nymphs of well and fountains.

Stowe says, "that in the month of May, the citizens of London, of all estates, lighted in every parish, or some times two or three

parishes joining together, had their several Mayings, and d'd fetch in Maypoles, with divers warlike showers, with good archers, morricedancers, and other devices for pastime all the day long, and towards the evening they had stage-plays and bonfires in the streets. These greates Mayings and Maygames, made by governors and masters of this city, with the triumphant setting up of the greates shafts (a principall May-pole in Cornhill, before the parish church of S. Andrew, therefore called Under-shafts), by means of an insurrection of yonthes against alia ces, on May-day, 1517, have not bene so freely used as afore."

The disuse of these ancient pastimes and the consequent neglect of a chore, are thus lamented by Richard Niccol, in his "London Antiquary, 1616:—

"How 's it that our London hath laid downe
This worthy practise, which was once the crowne,
Of all her pastime which her Rob'n Hor?
Had wont each yeare when May did clad the wood
With lustre greene, to lead his young men out.
Whose brave demeaour, oft when they did shoot,
Invited royall princes from their courts
Into the wilde woods to behold their sports!
Who thought it then a manly sight and trim,
To see a youth of olne compacted lim,
Who, with a comely grace, in his left hand
Holding his bow, did take his steadfast stand,
Setting his left leg somewhat forth before,
His arrow with his right hand nocking sure,
Not stopping, nor yet standing stright upright,
Then, with his left hand little borse his sight,
Stretching his arm out, with an easie strength
To draw an arrow of a yard in length."

The lines—

"Invited royall princes from their courts
Into the wilde woods to behold their sports,"

may be reasonably supposed to allude to Henry the Eighth, who appears to have been particularly attached, as well to the exercise of archery, as to the observance of Maying. "Some short time after his coronation," says Hall, "he came to Westminster with the queen, and all their train, and on a tyme being there, his grace, Charles of Essex, Wiltshire and other noble menne, to the number of twelve, came suddenly in a mornyng into the quenes chambere, all appareled in short cotes of Kentish kenda, with hodes on their heddys, and hosen of the same, every one of them his bowe and arrows, and a sword and a bucklar, like outlaws, or Robyn Hodesmen; whereof the quene, the ladies, and al other were abashed at well for the strange sight, as also for their sodain cormyng, and after certayn daunces and pastime made, they departed."



MAY DAY IN THE OLDEN TIMES.

The same author gives the following curious account of a Maying in the seventh year of that monarch, 1516:—"The king and queen, accompanied with many lords and ladies, rode to the high ground on Shooter's-hill to take the air, and as they passed by the way, they espied a company of tall yemen clothed all in green, with green whodes and bows and arrows, to the number of ninety. One of them calling himself Robin Hood, came to the king, desiring him to see his men shoot, and the king was content. Then he whistled, and all the ninety archers stood and looked at once, he then whistled again, and they shot again; their arrows whistled by craft of the head, so that the noise was strange and great, and much pleased the king, the queen, and all the company. All these archers were of the king's guard, and had thus appeared themselves to make a lace to the king. Then Robin Hood desired the king and queen to come to the green wood, and show the outlaws live. The king demanded of the queen and her ladies, if they durst venture to go into the wood with so many outlaws, and the queen was content. Then the horn blew till they came to the wood under Shooter's-hill, and there was an arbour made of boughs, with a hall and a great chamber, and an inner chamber, well made and covered with flowers and sweet herbs, which the king much praised. Then said Robin Hood, 'Sir, outlaws breakfasts is vensyn, and you must be content with such fare as we have.' The king and queen sat down, and were served with venison and wine by Robin Hood and his men. Then the king and his party departed, they were met by two ladies in a rich chariot, drawn by five horses, every horse had his name on his head, and on every horse sat a lady, with her name written; and in a chariot sat the Lady May, accompanied with Lady Flora, and a lady appeared, and they sang the king with divers songs, and so brought him to Greenwich."

MAY MORN SONG.

The grass is wet with shining dew,
Their silver bells hang on each tree,
While opening flower and bursting bud
Breathe the incense forth unceasingly;
The mavis pipes in greenwood shaw,
The thrush glads the spreading thorn,
And cheerily the blytheome lark
Salutes the rosy face of morn.

'Tis early prime;
And hark! hark! hark!
His merry obline
Chirrup the lark:

Chirrup! chirrup! he heralds in
The jolly sun with matin hymn.

Come, come, my love! and May-dew shake
In pallid from each drooping bough—
They'll give fresh lustre to the bloom
That breaks upon thy young cheek now.
O'er hill and dale, o'er waste and wood,
Aunt's smiles are streaming free;
With earth it seems brave holiday,
In heaven it looks high jubilee.

And it is right,
For mark, love, mark!
How bathed in light
Chirrup the lark:

Chirrup! chirrup! he upward flies,
Like holy thoughts to cloudless skies.

They lack all heart who cannot feel
The voice of heaven within them thrill,
In summer morn, when mounting high,
This merry minstrel sings his fill.
Now let us seek you bosky dell
Where brightest wild-flowers choose to be,
And where the clear stream murmurs on,
Meet type of our love's purity;

No witness there,
And o'er us, hark!
High in the air
Chirrup the lark:

Chirrup! chirrup! away soars he,
Beating to heaven my vows to thee!

Blackwood's Magazine.

AN AGED LADY BURST TO DEATH.—On Tuesday evening an inquest was held at Bromley on the body of Hester Johnson, aged seventy-six years. On the Monday in the previous week she was the subject of an inquest, on her return from an errand, found her mistress in the passage, her clothes almost entirely consumed from her body, and her face and neck dreadfully burnt. It is supposed that deceased, who occasionally held the lighted candle on her lap, was reading, when the candle set fire to her head-dress, causing the injuries which terminated fatally on Sunday week. The jury returned a verdict of "Accidental death."—*Kentish Gazette.*

"LOVE'S MARTYRDOM."—Neither the manager of the Olympic nor the author of the new drama which was produced there last Wednesday evening had any knowledge of the existence of a long-forgotten play, bearing this title, which was brought out at the Haymarket, and played for a few nights some years ago; but the writer of that piece having protested against the unintentional adoption of the designation, in which he claims copyright, the name of Mr. Leicester Buckingham's drama has been altered to "Love's Martyr."—*Era.*

THE JAMAICA COMMISSIONERS.—Mr. Maule, the Jamaica commissioner, left Southampton for London on Sunday. Mr. Gurney, the other commissioner, left Southampton for the metropolis on Monday. Mrs. Gordon, the widow of Mr. Gordon, who was hanged in Jamaica, is expected in England on the 12th inst. She would have come to this country in the Shannon, which arrived at Southampton on Saturday, but her friends did not like to send her in the same ship with the commissioners, as it might have caused some embarrassment. Governor Eyre will arrive in England next month. Arrangements were made for conveying Mr. Gurney to London immediately on his arrival to vote in the great contest respecting the Reform Bill. He mentioned, however, to his friends in Southampton that he could not have conscientiously voted unless he had heard the whole of the important debate on the subject of the Bill. One can hardly imagine the sacrifices the two commissioners made in undertaking a laborious, prompt, and important inquiry in such a climate as Jamaica. They are both advanced in years, and are not enjoying robust health. Mr. Maule particularly enjoyed the homeward voyage. He was very communicative, and many of the passengers, without reflecting on the delicacy of his mission, entered into familiar conversation with him. He did not hesitate to answer any questions put to him in apparently the most unreserved manner. To the utmost surprise of all the passengers, however, they found, on comparing notes, that they had not the slightest idea as to the opinions of the commissioners on the important questions respecting the Jamaica Insurrection, which those gentlemen are preparing to submit to the Government.

BEYOND ALL COMPETITION!—T. R. WILLIS, Maker and Importer of musical Instruments. Established 1833. The trade and amateurs supplied with Harmonium Reeds, Musical Strings, and all kinds of fittings. Lists free. 20, Winchester Road, London. (Advertisement.)

EXCELLENT PRIZE MEDAL FAMILY SEWING AND EMBROIDERING MACHINES for every home, are the simplest, cheapest, and best; doing every variety of domestic and fancy work in a superior manner. Lists free. Wright and Mann, 143, Holborn Bars, London. Manufacturer, Ipswich. (Advertisement.)

Notes of the Week.

VICE-ADMIRAL LORD CLARENDON PAGET, C.B., was on Saturday appointed commander-in-chief in the Mediterranean, vice Vice-Admiral Sir Robert Smart, whose period of service has expired.

A FRIGHTFUL accident occurred at Sutton on Saturday, by which six men were killed. The South Coast Company are making a new line of railway which is ultimately intended to connect Portsmouth with their London terminus by a direct route. It is known as the Mitcham and Sutton line, and after crossing Mitcham common it runs at the west of Canehalton and joins the existing Epsom line, on the London side of the junction, renders a bridge necessary for the public road. The bridge was nearly completed some weeks since, but a doubt of its stability was entertained in consequence of an extensive fracture in the brickwork showing itself, reports being current that the bridge was condemned, and that several workmen had been discharged from the work for refusing to endanger their lives by working at it. At half-past two on Saturday there were three labourers employed with pickaxes in hewing away the chalk from the sides, and three others were scraping the brickwork preparatory to painting. A ganger, John White, was superintending the work. At this time, without any warning, the whole mass of brickwork was torn asunder at the abutments, and the six men were buried under 100 tons of displaced bricks. Every effort was made to extricate them, but two hours elapsed before this could be effected, and they were then taken out, of course, quite dead. The ganger escaped.

On Saturday an inquest was held at Birmingham respecting the death of John Robins, 54, a retail brewer. Deceased was addicted to shocking habits of intemperance. John Heritage, brewer, said on Thursday week, about five o'clock in the afternoon, he was looking for the deceased at the back of 123, Belbarn-road. When he got into the malt room he saw the deceased hanging from a cord with a loop round his neck. The deceased was on his knees. Witnesses at once cut the rope, but the deceased proved to be dead. The jury returned a verdict that the deceased committed suicide whilst in a state of insanity.

The Royal Mail steamer Shannon, with the West India and Pacific mails, arrived at Southampton on Saturday. Among her passengers were Mr. Russell Garney and Mr. J. B. Maule, the royal commissioners from Jamaica.

On Saturday an inquest was held at Cavendish, Suffolk, on the bodies of two men, named Reeve and Deake, who had lost their lives on the preceding day at a fire in the cotton-fibre manufacturing of Mr. Churchyard, at that place. It is customary to lay cotton-fibre in the yard which has been wetted for any purpose in the yard to dry previous to its being manufactured, and on the Friday a quantity of fibre was lying in the yard attached to Mr. Churchyard's factory for that purpose. Shortly after two o'clock this fibre became ignited by some unaccountable means, and the flames communicated with other fibre in the factory. An alarm was given, but such was the inflammable nature of the material that the flames spread from floor to floor with very great rapidity. In less than five minutes every part of the building was in flames. There were between twenty and thirty persons employed in the factory at the time. All were saved, however, except the deceased. Deake was taken out of the third floor window by a ladder, but he had received injuries which terminated fatally on Saturday. Reeve's body was not discovered until the fire was extinguished. The fire is supposed to have been caused by some one smoking, although the practice was strictly forbidden on the premises. At the inquest, on Saturday, no satisfactory evidence could be obtained on this subject, and the jury returned a verdict of "Accidentally burnt."

A VERY serious collision happened to the night express from Scotland to London shortly after it had got on the North-Eastern Railway and was past Berwick on Sunday morning. It had reached Sorromerton, three miles south of that town, and was getting full speed, when it ran into an empty goods wagon, which there is every reason to believe had been placed there by some drunken rascals. The train smashed through it, but in doing so it got off the line, and tore up about thirty yards of rail before it was brought to a stand. Several of the passengers were more or less hurt—one of them, Captain Anderson, so severely that he had to be taken back to Berwick, where medical assistance was called in. The remainder of the passengers, as soon as the train was got on the line, proceeded south. Assistance has been given to the men who had been drinking at a public-house close by, and who suddenly appeared on the scene of the catastrophe after the collision, and who appear to have been over-communative.

MURDER OF A POLICEMAN IN DUBLIN.—At a quarter past twelve o'clock on Saturday night Police-constable Charles O'Neill, 49 D, was cruelly murdered in Phil-lane in Dublin. It appears that as the deceased, while on duty, was going to the assistance of some female who had been calling for the police, he met a civilian and two soldiers, said to belong to the Artillery, running down the lane in the direction in which he was going. The civilian, on approaching the constable, fired a pistol at him, and the ball entered the abdomen. Finding, however, that his victim was not disabled, he again fired, and wounded him in the stomach, and then, in company with his comrades, ran away. The deceased, although mortally wounded, followed them for a short distance, and expired, calling out, "Stop the murderer!" A girl, who had been in the lane at the time, states that she heard one of the men say, after the shots had been fired, "Kearney, you have shot the man;" and a beer-house keeper, named Doyle, who had called the police, alleges that a blacksmith, named Richard Kearney, had presented a revolver at her before she called. Kearney is well known to the police, and had been prosecuted for tearing down a proclamation offering a reward for Stephens. On Saturday night an attempt was also made to drown a constable of the E division in the Royal Canal. The constable had been on duty, and hearing some persons tearing down gates, and throwing them into the river at Bally-bridge, he proceeded in the direction of the noise. When he got on the bridge he was savagely attacked by fourteen or fifteen persons, who endeavoured to throw him into the canal. Being a young athletic man, however, he kept his assailants at bay till some persons came to his assistance, and then grappled with two of the fellows, and arrested them, while the others swam to the opposite side of the river.

SILKWORKS.—A letter from Lyons states that numerous complaints come in from the silk-producing districts in the south of France of the failure of the foreign seed imported last year. It appears that the seed which arrived from Japan at the end of last year was more carefully packed than that of 1864, and sanguine hopes were entertained of an excellent crop. The temperature of last December was nearly the same as that of the corresponding period of the preceding year, but the heat became too great during the next three months, and the seed could not support it, especially that from Japan, which is of a very delicate kind. It became evident that it could weather set in a great number of the worms would perish. This has occurred in many places, but full credit is not given to all reports in circulation. Many purchasers, however, have refused to fulfil their engagements with the import merchants, on the ground that merchandise was of bad quality. Should the law courts decide against the merchants, the consequence will be injurious to the trade in the south of France, for merchants will not import seed if they are to incur the risk of the weather becoming prematurely hot.

Foreign News.

FRANCE.

The King of Prussia's nephew, Prince Adalbert, is still at Toulon, where he is engaged in examining every detail of the arsenal, dockyards, stores, &c., and in gathering information on all subjects connected with the French navy. The *Gazette du Midi* informs us that his royal highness has inspected the iron-clads now on the stocks and those which are in the course of fitting out, and that he has been over the flag-ships *Bellerophon*, the corvette *Bellepue* and the *Marengo*, which are building at the Moutillon. The prince is an admirable listener; he never discusses, but closely questions his officers, and listens on clear and minute explanations. The Lord High Admiral of the Prussian fleet is accompanied by two naval aides-de-camp, who follow him, note-books in hand, and write under the prince's dictation. These young officers are described as highly educated and intelligent, and as allowing nothing of interest to escape their notice.

The Emperor Napoleon has just conferred the title of duke upon the Count Colonna Walewski. The Second Empire has thus created seven dukedoms—Malskoff, De Montmorot (son of Queen Christina), Magenta, De Morny, De Persigny, De Montmorency, and De Colonna Walewski. Of this number, two, the dukedoms of Malskoff and De Montmorot, have already become extinct.

ITALY AND AUSTRIA.

A Florence letter says:—"All the intelligence received here from Venetia confirms the magnitude and precipitancy of the Austrian military preparations. It is calculated that the present strength of the Austrian army in Venetia will be augmented by 60,000 or 80,000 men, and that by the 1st May, or within a few days from that date, Austria will have assembled a total effective force of 160,000 men in that province. On the 25th inst. the railway line will be opened from Padua to Mouselle for the exclusive use of the military service. The bridges of the new railway from Padua to the Adige and those on the line from Verona to Peschiera are guarded by military detachments. The Austrian Government has offered a premium to the contractor for laying the railway line from Padua to Rovigo, if he shall finish it within the month."

THE WAR BETWEEN SPAIN AND CHILI.

The *Panama Star* and *Herald* of the 5th gives the following news from Chili:—

"By last British mail we had the gratification of reporting that the enemies of the peace of the whole of South America had sustained defeat and loss in an attempt to capture or destroy the allied fleet of Chili and Peru, in one of the creeks or channels of the island of Chiloe. The two Spanish vessels received such damage that they had to return to Valparaiso to refit. The sailing commander of the squadron, Mendez Nunez, either thinking he had it to do for he took the iron-clad *Nemancia* to the scene of the disaster to destroy the allies, or thinking he personally could do more than the commanders he had previously sent, proceeded from Valparaiso in the iron-clad, accompanied by the *Blanca*, for the channels of Chiloe to look for the enemy. Not finding them where he expected, he determined to keep in the neighbourhood and anchored on the 1st of March in a narrow channel, near a place called 'Tabladillo,' the *Blanca* having to lay close in shore, not more than sixty metres from the rocks. A sharp outlook had been, unknown to the Spaniards, kept on shore, and the commander of a handful of troops, stationed in the neighbourhood, marched his men during night and placed them on a commanding position on the rocks, right above the *Blanca*, to wait the muster of all hands on deck in the morning. As expected, the Spaniards made muster on deck, when the troops poured into them a murderous fire from a distance of not more than a hundred metres. The surprise was most effective, and the troops scattered and took up position over the rocks, continuing fire with deadly precision. The *Blanca* had little scope for her guns at such a range, nor had she any body of men to fire on; the *Nemancia* lying outside of her could render no assistance with her guns, but sent boats, which the fire from the rocks forced to retreat. This work was kept up for about two hours, till the two vessels could get clear of the channel. The loss of the Chilean troops has not been one man. Such is the reception which at every point of the coast will await the Spaniards."

HORRIBLE TRAGEDY.—SEVEN PERSONS MURDERED.

A HORRIBLE butchery has been committed on a farm near Philadelphia—the victims being a man named Christopher Dearing, his wife, four children, and his niece, a young woman about twenty-five years old. The *Philadelphia Ledger* of April 11 says:—"Yesterday, a friend of Mr. Dearing went to the house and found it fastened up. He raised one of the sashes and entered. No one was within, and while the interior was not entirely in order, it did not exhibit such unusual disorder as to create suspicion of foul play. The barn and stable were then visited, and in the former the foot of a man was seen protruding from under a pile of hay. The hay was removed, and out of only was the murdered body of Mr. Dearing uncovered, but that of his niece also. Both were in full dress, he having even his gloves on, and both had their heads nearly severed from their bodies. The pockets of his pantaloons had been turned inside out, and his body seemed to have been searched, as if for a money belt. They had doubtless been carried there and the hay piled over them to prevent immediate discovery. The bodies of the mother and children were found in a corn crib attached to the barn, and all, as Mr. Dearing and niece were, with their throats cut, and their bodies concealed under a pile of hay. The mother had, in addition, the top of her head crushed in. One of the children was a mere babe, less than two years old. The police found an axe which was bloody, and which had evidently been used by the murderer. The wounds upon some of the victims show that the throats had been cut with an axe. A careful consideration of all the facts and circumstances led to the conclusion that the wife and children were murdered before the husband and niece got home. On what part of the premises the slaughter took place could not be determined. The supposition was that all the victims had been carried to the places where they were discovered. The disappearance of the hired man and of the boy Cornelius led to suspicion against them, and a reward has been offered for their apprehension. A later account says, "That an eighth person, the boy who was suspected of having been concerned in the crime, was also murdered. The farm servant has been arrested. He has confessed to the murder of the boy, but says that an accomplice (Jacob Yonder) committed the rest of the butchery."

IMPORTANT TO MOTHERS!—Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child, suffering and crying with the excruciating pain of cutting teeth?—If so, go at once to a chemist and get a bottle of "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup." It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately; this preparation, which has been in use in America over thirty years, and very highly recommended by medical men, is now sold in this country, with full directions on the bottle. It is pleasant to take and safe in all cases; it soothes the child, and gives it rest; softens the bowels, allays all pain, relieves wind in the stomach, and regulates the action, and is the best known remedy for dysentery or diarrhoea, whether it arises from teething or other causes. Be sure and ask for "Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup," and see that "Curtis and Perkins, New York and London," is on the outside wrapper. Price is 1d. per bottle. Sold by chemists everywhere. Principal office, 205, High Holborn, London. (Advertisement.)

In consequence of the Reduction in Duty, Horniman's Tea is now supplied by the Agents Eightpence per lb. Cheaper. Every Genuine Packet is signed "Horniman and Co." (Advertisement.)

General News.

"I don't miss my church so much as you suppose," said a lady to her minister, who had called upon her during her illness, "for I make Betsy sit up by the window as soon as the bells begin to chime, and tell me who are going to church, and whether they have got anything new."—*American Paper*

A GREAT novelty has just been introduced by one of the leading Dublin hospitals. The managers of St. Vincent's Hospital, Stephen's-green, have purchased the splendid residence known as Lyndon Castle, Blackrock, for the purpose of converting it into a sanatorium to which they will send the convalescent patients to enjoy the benefit of the country air, sea-bathing, &c., previous to returning to their homes.

THE POWER OF STEAM.—The South-Western Railway Company now possess a monster engine which has been named the Colossus. It has been built to draw a train of eighty loaded waggons eighty miles in three hours, each loaded wagon weighing about ten tons. It can drag nearly 1,000 tons from London to Southampton with almost the speed of a bird flying.

A DESPATCH from Providence, Rhode Island, dated Friday, April 13, published in the American papers, is as follows:—"Considerable tumult was caused here this evening by the conduct of a theatrical company from New York. Stuart and Taylor, managers, who announced the play of the 'Merry Wives of Windsor,' with Hackett as Falstaff, at the Academy of Music. A large audience attended, but the play was so mutilated by the actors in an effort to get through at 9.30, to take the train for New York, that the audience would not allow the performance to proceed, and broke up in an uproar. The actors were followed to the depot by several hundred people groaning and hooting, but no personal violence was offered."

The following story is now current in military circles at Vienna:—"Not long since the commanders of the different regiments received sealed orders, which were not to be opened until telegraphic instructions to do so had been received. The colonel of a regiment lying in cr near Comorn received the sealed orders without any special instructions, and he at once opened them. After having read their contents he appointed twelve cadets to be lieutenants, and it is said that he was about to take other steps of a similar kind when he received the instructions which ought to have accompanied the sealed order." The only unpleasant part of the story is that the promotion of the twelve young men has not been confirmed.

A CASE of Asiatic cholera has occurred at Bristol. It appears that a seaman came from Rotterdam, via London, and that on the journey from the latter place he was first attacked with the disease, which made such rapid strides that within eighteen hours of his first seizure he was a corpse. Dr. Davies, the medical inspector of the city, and Dr. W. Budd, both pronounced it a case of Asiatic cholera.

The following characteristic story is told by *La Patrie*:—"An eccentric wager was made at the last Paris races between two rich Englishmen. One of the terms of a particular bet was that the loser was to invite to his table eighty poor persons selected from the applicants for relief to the various benevolent associations of the capital. These persons were all to be of about the same height as the betters, and to be between forty and fifty years of age. Lord B——, the loser, is the personification of British haughtiness, and being indisposed to mix with persons not suitably attired, gathered his brigade of paupers at an outfitting establishment, where he had them provided from head to foot. In the evening the dandies thus improvised made their appearance in the gorgeous salons of his lordship's hotel, in the Faubourg St. Honore."

WE regret to announce the death of Lord and Lady Rivers. His lordship's death occurred on Saturday shortly before midnight, and Lady Rivers expired shortly before eight on Monday morning, after a short illness from congestion of the lungs. The late Lord Rivers was born in July, 1810, and succeeded his father, Horace William B. Rivers, third baron, in January, 1831. In February, 1833 he married Lady Susan Georgiana Leveson Gower, eldest daughter of Granville, first Earl Granville, and consequently sister of the present Earl Granville, Lord President of the Council. The late Lord Rivers was a lord in waiting to her Majesty from 1841 to 1846, and from 1853 to 1858, and was reappointed in June, 1859. His lordship was a deputy-lieutenant of the county of Dorset, and colonel-commandant of the Dorsetshire Yeomanry Cavalry.

LADY KNIGHT-BRUCE, the wife of Lord Justice Knight-Bruce, died suddenly when leaving her carriage to enter Mr. P. Robinson's shop, in Regent-street. Her ladyship was the daughter of Mr. Thomas Newte, of Dunstable, Devon, and married the Lord Justice (then Mr. Knight) in 1812. Lady Bruce leaves one son, Mr. L. K. Bruce, of Stambury, and two daughters—Elizabeth Julia, wife of Mr. F. D. Tyssen, and Rosalind Margaret, widow of Mr. John George Phillimore, M.P.

THE WANDERINGS OF A POST-RUNNER.—During the last nine years (says our Knockando correspondent) our obliging and trustworthy post-runner, Johnnie McIntosh, has travelled the enormous distance of 64,200 miles, over 13,260 of which he has been carried by one pair of boots, which though now two years old, have been only once soled, and will, to all appearance, carry him over many thousand miles to come. Johnnie is quite a character in his way. His wanderings have not been confined to the slopes of our "Hielan' hills," for he has travelled through a great part of America, and can talk of New York, the St. Lawrence, the Rapids, Montreal, Quebec, Hamilton, and the Lakes, in a manner which shows the intelligence and wonderful powers of observation he is possessed of, and to what good account he has turned them. In politics he is well versed, and to hear him give vent to his opinions on the non-intervention of Britain in behalf of poor Denmark and the present policy of Count Bismarck is quite a treat. He is an out-and-out Radical, and watches, with intense interest, the progress of the Reform Bill. His Republican notions were doubtless imbibed in Yankee-land, which he upholds as the most glorious country under the sun.—*Elgin Courier*.

SHOCKING WIFE MURDER.—The Court of Assizes of the Somme has just tried a cattle-dealer named Crepy, aged 54, residing at Noyelles-en-Chaussee, for having, on the 25th of January last, murdered his wife, and then set fire to his house in order to conceal his crime. The evidence proved that, on the alarm being given, the flames were got under without difficulty by the firemen assisted by a number of the inhabitants, the prisoner, to all appearance, being most energetic in his exertions. A burning mass was found in a room up stairs, and this proved to be the body of the wife, which, although partially consumed, still retained sufficient form to show that a murder had been committed, as the skull was fractured. Blood was also discovered in abundance on the bed clothes, as well as on a heavy mallet lying close by. A quantity of straw was piled up around, but this had partly smouldered away. The man's concern at finding that the body and bed were not entirely consumed excited suspicion, and on his suddenly disappearing a few minutes after, every one in the village set him down as the murderer. The accused concealed himself for three days in an abandoned building close by, but being then pressed for hunger, he came out and was immediately arrested. Next day he confessed his guilt, and declared that, after murdering the woman because she refused to give him money to spend in drink, he had heaped up combustible materials around the bed and then set fire to the whole. He was found guilty under extenuating circumstances, and condemned to hard labour for life.

EXPLOSION OF A STEAMER AT COLON.

By the Royal Mail Company's steamer Shannon, we have news of the destruction of another vessel belonging to the fleet of the West India and Pacific Company—the European. The steamer blew up alongside the wharf at Colon, near the railway station on the Atlantic side of the Isthmus of Panama, and the captain, the chief officer, the second officer, the surgeon, and nearly all the crew, were killed on the spot. Among the cargo was a quantity of nitro-glycerine, an explosive oil, some seventy cases of which had been shipped from Liverpool for California, for use in blasting. It is supposed that one of these cases ignited, or exploded by concussion, and as the explosive force of nitro-glycerine is said to be much greater than that of gunpowder, the result was a tremendous shock, which destroyed the wharf, with property valued at 1,000,000 dollars, and was fatal to many persons ashore as well as to those on board the European. When the Royal Mail steamer Tamar left Colon the number of those who lost their lives had not been accurately ascertained, and the estimate varied from fifty to eighty persons. The *Panama Star* and *Herald* gives the following details:—

"The European arrived at Aspinwall on the morning of the 2nd inst., and on the afternoon of the same day came alongside the railroad company's wharf generally used by this line, and commenced discharging her cargo. Nearly, if not all, the local freight had been delivered, when, about seven o'clock on the morning of the 3rd, a terrific explosion occurred on board, which tore away the upper parts of the ship and blew several large plates off the side. The wharf at which the vessel was unloading, and which was some 400 feet long, was literally torn to pieces, the superstructure was completely demolished to within a hundred feet of the freight-house, and hardly a plank remained in the entire length of the structure that was not wrenched from its fastenings. Immediately in front of where the vessel lay a gap was cut through the wharf, piles, planking, &c. all disappearing. The ship and wharf both caught fire, and the latter was saved from entire destruction only by the exertions of several citizens, who got the fire-engine to work, and after a few hours extinguished the flames, regardless of the risk they incurred from another explosion of the burning ship. The Panama Railroad Company's freight-house is left a pile of ruins. The force of air caused by the concussion seems to have raised the roof, which was constructed of iron and steel, upwards a few feet, its own weight bringing it down with immense force into the building, and carrying with it both the end walls, leaving the house, excepting the end walls, which appear but little if at all injured, a mass of ruins. It would be difficult to imagine a more complete wreck than that presented by the freight-house and wharf. Scarcely a building in the place escaped without more or less damage, those of a substantial nature suffering most; nearly all the brick and stone buildings were badly injured, but the freight-house is the only one we have heard of which has been rendered uninhabitable. Hardly a whole window of glass remains in the city, and the destruction of glassware, crockery, and such like is really wonderful. Although many vessels were lying in close proximity to the European at the time of the disaster, none, excepting the Caribbean of the same line, sustained any serious damage. The last-named vessel was moored at the opposite side of the wharf from the European, and received very serious injury. Her hull externally appears untouched, but the effect of the concussion internally was very severe. We are assured that some immense iron girders nearly twelve inches deep were snapped off like a pipe stem, thirteen of her frames were broken, and knees and braces of the heaviest timber were torn from their places. The strain upon the ship must have been of immense force, and nothing but the superior build and structure of the vessel saved her from being knocked to pieces. All her boats, and in fact everything of a fragile nature, were rendered useless. The most awful part of the catastrophe was the dreadful loss of life and suffering attending it. Of the number killed and missing it is impossible to give a correct estimate, but from present data the number may safely be put down at fifty, and is, we fear, more likely to prove over this number than under it. Of the forty-one men comprising the crew of the European nine have been killed and twelve are missing. Two clerks engaged on the wharf, Mr. Swainson, of the West India and Pacific Steamship Company, and Mr. Olivo, of the Panama Railway Company, were both instantly killed, and of thirteen native or Jamaican employed on the wharf and in the freight-house, none are supposed to have been saved; besides, it is believed a small gang of native labourers who had gone on board the unfortunate steamer have met the fate of the others. It will be several days before a correct estimate can be made of the loss. Many bodies were no doubt thrown into the water and picked up by sharks, while others are still buried beneath the ruins of the freight-house and wharf, or went down with the ill-fated ship. The scene in Aspinwall after the first explosion cannot be described—it was harrowing in the extreme. While the ruins gave an air of desolation to the place, the mangled and lacerated bodies, or pieces of bodies, to be met with in every direction for a great distance around the ruin of the disaster were heartrending, and the suffering of the poor mortals crushed and bruised, in whom life was not extinct, was really dreadful. Fears being entertained that a second explosion would occur, and as the cause of the disaster was still unknown, and none of the officers or crew of the ship were left who could give any explanation of its cause, it was thought best to have the burning ship towed out into the stream. The Royal Mail steamship Tamar, Captain Mohr, which had arrived the previous evening, immediately got up steam and prepared to tow out the burning ship, but before this could be accomplished another explosion took place, though not of sufficient force to cause any injury. It was supposed to be the magazine, which contains a small quantity of powder for ship's use. The Tamar then made fast to the burning hulk and towed her out. The two vessels had barely reached the opposite side of the bay when another explosion more terrific than the first occurred, but fortunately, the ship being far from the city and in deep water, no harm resulted. The last explosion is supposed to have broken open the hull, as in less than half an hour after it occurred the unfortunate ship went down. The top of her smoke stack is the only part now visible. At first the cause of the explosion was wrapped in mystery, and, as no one was saved from the wreck who could give any satisfactory explanation, all was left to conjecture. A boiler explosion was impossible, as there was no steam on the main boiler, and there was no necessity to use the engines, as the ship had been lying at the wharf over eighteen hours discharging cargo. Gunpowder seemed most plausible, but there was none known to be on board, except a few pounds in the magazine for ship's use, which could not possibly cause so much destruction. If any were on board it must be under a false bill of lading, as none appeared in the ship's manifest. Besides, it seemed impossible that powder could explode in such immense quantities without creating a cloud of smoke, and leaving its marks on everything around, whereas in this case a few minutes after the explosion no traces whatever were visible, excepting the general ruin. It was then discovered that some seventy cases of gelatin, or nitro-glycerine, one of the most powerful explosive agents known at the present day, was on board under an ordinary bill of lading. This at once cleared up the mystery. This compound is used for blasting purposes, and was shipped from Liverpool for California. It is, we understand, of a similar composition, if not the same, as a barrel or box of oil which exploded in Greenwich-street, New York, a short time ago. It will be remembered the package was accidentally dropped on the street, and immediately exploded, tearing down two or three large buildings and damaging many others. The amount of damage caused by the explosion is roughly estimated at 1,000,000 dollars, which is about

the lowest figure at which it can be placed. The wounded, so far as found, have all been well cared for, and nothing has been left undone that could add to their comfort. Many of the poor fellows had to undergo severe surgical operations. Several only survived a few hours after reaching the hospital."

FRIGHTFUL ACCIDENT ON THE BRIGHTON RAILWAY.

A FRIGHTFUL accident took place on Monday night, at a quarter to ten, on the London, Brighton, and South-Coast Railway, near the Oattham Junction. A train due in London at a quarter to ten left the Brighton Station at eight. It took up several carriages from Hastings, and then consisted of from fifteen to twenty carriages. Up to a short distance past Oattham Junction nothing occurred to cause alarm. At that point, however, some waggons laden with chalk were upon the main line, and the approaching train came into collision with them. The engine ran over an embankment, which is from forty feet to fifty feet deep; but, fortunately, the coupling irons gave way, and it became detached from the rest of the train, and rolled to the bottom. The first carriage was left tilted up edgewise on the top of the embankment, and remained there. Several others were thrown off the line, and many of them were much injured. One first-class carriage was completely smashed. At first all was confusion. The passengers who were uninjured escaped from the carriages in which they had been, but had the greatest difficulty, in consequence of the darkness, in ascertaining what had happened. The groans of persons who had been injured were heard, but the places where they were could not be ascertained. Lights, however, were soon procured from the carriages, and then it was found that a very serious accident had happened. Intelligence was at once sent to Oattham to the officers of the company at that station, and they, with some navvies, soon came upon the spot. After their arrival the first sight that presented itself was a well-dressed man, apparently dying, with his leg under the wheels of a carriage and his head covered with blood. He was groaning heavily. Loose rails were got and employed as levers to raise the carriage, and the injured man was lifted and removed insensible by the officers of the company. The carriage which had been so completely broken was examined, and a lady was found underneath the back, which had fallen in, and over which lay the whole of the side of the three compartments. The side was first removed, and then a number of hands assisted in lifting the back. Under it a voice was heard, but for a long while nothing could be seen to indicate that any one was there. Under a confused heap of broken fragments of the carriage the lady was at length found and extricated. Mr. Nottage, of Tulse-hill, who was a passenger in the train, assisted her in getting from the place in which she had been buried. It was found, much to the surprise of all present, that she was entirely uninjured. Mr. Nottage assisted her in crossing the line, and in descending the embankment to a place of safety. Under a second-class carriage the body of a woman was found completely crushed. The engine-driver was buried under the engine, and was also killed on the spot. A large number of persons were found wounded and insensible in the carriages, and were removed to the house of Mrs. Jackson, at a short distance from the line, where all the beds were given up for the accommodation of the wounded. Two ladies, who had received such serious injuries to the head that they were nearly insensible, came on by the train which arrived at London-bridge a little after one o'clock. There were several other passengers who had received serious contusions, some of whom had to be assisted to their homes.

A passenger who was in the train states that the chalk waggons, which were the cause of the accident, were scattered by the collision in a most extraordinary manner. As already stated, the engine of the train was severed from the carriages and fell over the embankment. The first carriage was thrown off the line and made to overhang the bank. The second carriage in which he sat was thrown right across the line and tilted up against the first one. He had just fallen asleep when the collision took place, and was suddenly awoke by being thrown down upon the floor of the carriage, and struck with the fragments. The flooring was rent, and the partitions were broken. He was thrown violently backwards and then forwards, receiving only a slight injury on the cheek. He feared the worst had not come, and described the suspense which followed in anticipation of a final crash as being most agonizing. On attempting to escape, he found that the carriage was locked; but he luckily had a railway-key, and with it he opened the door. He was in the upright part of the carriage, and was obliged, with his three fellow-passengers (a gentleman and two ladies), to jump from the step to the edge of the embankment. None of them were seriously injured, though much alarmed. The carriage following that described as smashed to pieces, and from which the lady was extricated, strange to say, had been more injured than the two carriages before it, and, what is still more extraordinary, its set of six wheels were seen on the top of a chalk wagon, more than a hundred yards in advance of the spot where the fragments of the carriage itself were lying. The engine of the chalk train was uninjured, and not even thrown off the line. It was employed to bring to London the passengers who were able to complete their journey.

PRINCE ALFRED'S CITY FREEDOM.—A short time since the corporation decided upon presenting the freedom of the City of London to Prince Alfred, and to depart from the usual routine of the gold box and to present it in a casket that should be characteristic of the profession which the prince follows. The specification was limited to a carved polished oak box inside and enriched with pure gold. Several designs for the casket having been submitted to the General Purposes Committee at Guildhall, that of Mr. Benson was unanimously chosen. It is an exquisitely carved oak cabinet, somewhat similar in general style, though not in material, to that made by Mr. Benson when the City's freedom was presented to the Prince of Wales. Its delicate tracery will make it almost unique of its kind, and its massive chased gold mouldings and inlayings relieve the darkness of the oak, and give great richness to the whole design. The arms of Prince Alfred, with the shield of Getha, are enamelled in gold on the front and back, with nautical emblems in dark blue panels surmounting them, while the ends of the casket, which is oval shaped, are closed with a scroll-work of foliage surmounted with marlin.

MARRIAGE OF A PRINCE WITH A DANCER.—A Berlin letter says:—"Madlle. Marie Taglioni has definitely left the stage, and is about to marry Prince Aloys-Joseph de Windischgratz, an officer of high rank in the Austrian army. Her farewell performance has just taken place at the Theatre Royal of Berlin, where she had been engaged for some years past. The entertainment consisted of fragments of ballets in which she had created the principal parts, and of an interlude composed for the occasion. The whole court was present, and during one of the intervals of the performance the King sent for Madlle. Taglioni and her father and grandfather, the latter of whom, although eighty-eight years of age, had come expressly from Italy for the occasion. The greatest enthusiasm prevailed throughout the evening. For a long time past no event has created so much excitement in Berlin as this marriage. The bride's father, M. Paul Taglioni, is first ballet master at the theatre, and has long enjoyed general esteem. Frequent offers of engagements had been sent from Vienna and St. Petersburg to his daughter, but the Court and public of the Prussian capital had given so many proofs of affection to her family that she constantly refused to quit Berlin, and has terminated there her brilliant artistic career."

R

THE MAY MEETINGS AT EXETER HALL.

THE past week has been a busy week at Exeter Hall, and round the doors have crowded similar gatherings as is shown in our engraving below. The hall is situated on the north side of the Strand. It is a large proprietary establishment, commenced in 1829, and was originally intended for religious and charitable societies and their meetings. It has a narrow frontage in the Strand, but the premises extend in the rear nearly from Burleigh-street to Exeter-street. The Strand entrance is Græco-Corinthian, and has two columns and pilasters. A double staircase leads to the Great Hall, beneath which are smaller ones, and passages leading to the offices of several societies.

The Great Hall, opened in 1831, is now used for the "May Meetings" of religious societies, and for the Sacred Harmonic Society's and other concerts. This hall has been twice enlarged, is now 131 feet x 100 feet long, seventy-six feet nine inches wide, and forty-five feet high, and will accommodate upwards of 3,000 persons. At the east end is an organ and orchestra, the property of the Sacred Harmonic Society; at the west end is a large gallery, extending partly along the sides; and on the floor are seats rising in part amphitheatrically; and a platform for the speakers, with a large carved chair.

In 1850 the area of the hall was lengthened nearly forty feet; the flat-panelled ceiling was also removed, and a coved one inserted, without disturbing the slating in the roof.

The ceiling has gained fifteen feet in height at the ends, and twelve feet in the centre; and the sound and ventilation are much improved. The Orchestra is on the acoustic principle successfully adopted by Mr. Costa at the Philharmonic Society; it is seventy-six feet wide, eleven feet more than the Birmingham Town Hall.

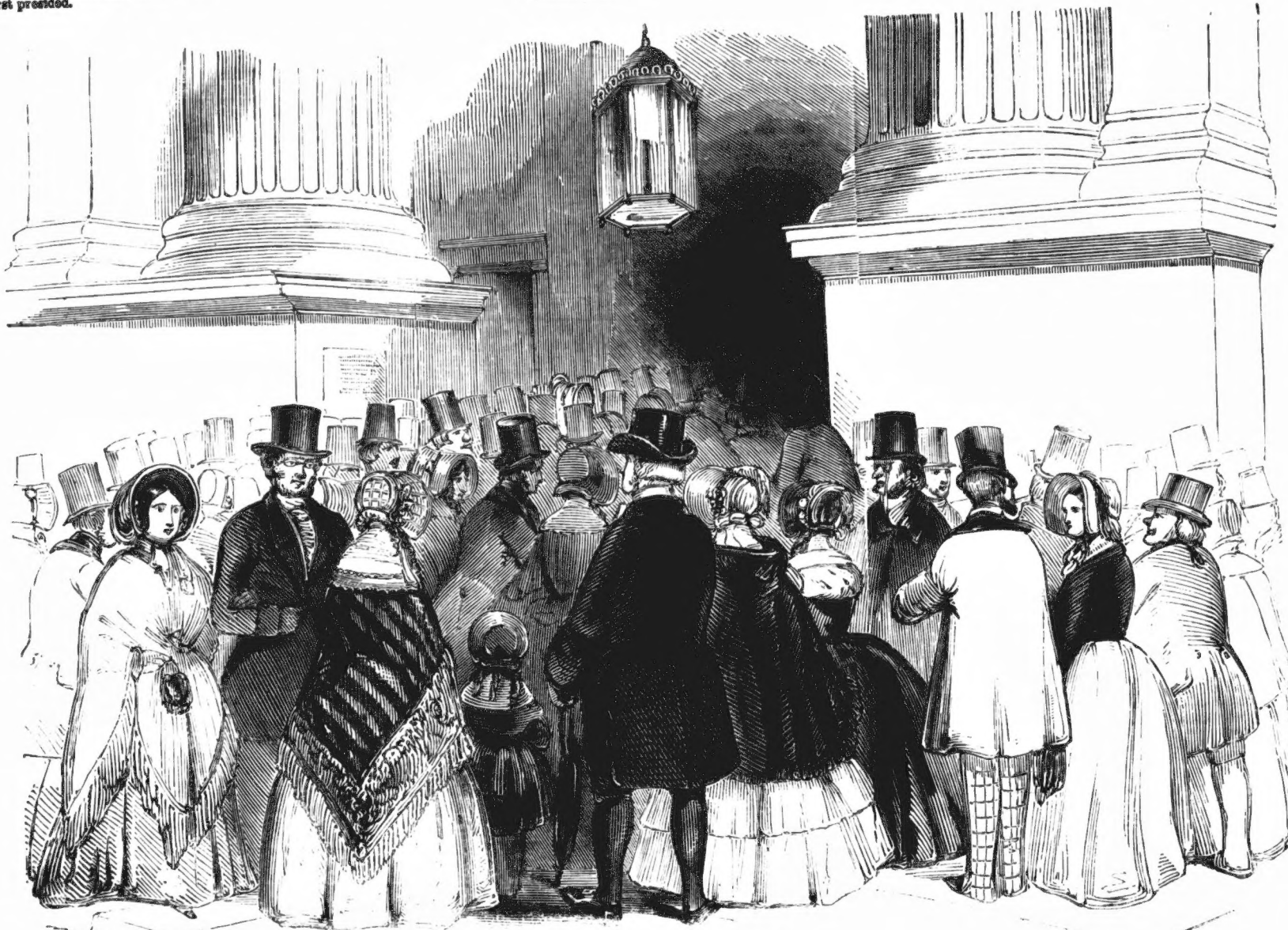
From April to the end of May, various societies hold their anniversary meetings at Exeter Hall. The smaller hall holds about 1,300 persons, and a third hall 250. On June 1, 1840, the late Prince Albert here first presided.



MISSIONARY LABOURS.

ELEPHANT AND RHINO-CEROS FIGHTS IN INDIA.

A BARODA correspondent of the *Bombay Gazette* describes some curious "sports" to which the Gulowar has been treating the Europeans in his capital. First came an elephant fight. "Seventy or eighty men with long spears were scattered about to stir up the animals to greater fury, and to preserve order generally. On first entering the balcony we perceived two elephants standing about 100 yards apart, secured by chains passed round the hind legs and fastened inside the narrow openings in the brick work. They were both much excited, and stamped and waved their trunks about nervously, being occasionally soothed by the iron prong of the mahout, who stuck gallantly to his charge throughout the combat. The elephants are fed upon stimulating provender to render them sufficiently fierce for the occasion. Their tusks were half-sawn off, or they would have been able to damage each other in a very expensive manner. A sporting wag immediately christened the combatants; calling one from the extreme length of his trunk, 'Conkey Jem,' and the other the 'Baroda Novice.' And now, all being ready, the Gulowar gave the signal, and the elephants were let loose. Round 1. The Novice advanced to the scratch smiling, and evidently ready to meet his opponent. Conkey Jem, on the other hand, seemed inclined to disappoint his backers, and shuffled about in a strange way, till the Novice went after him, when Conkey Jem suddenly closed, being evidently the heavier; the Novice had the worst of the grip, but disengaging himself cleverly, bolted to his corner. Round 2. The Novice less inclined to force the fighting this time, not liking the taste of his adversary's quality; being urged by his seconds, however, with sharp spears, he faced the Conkey once again, when much cautious sparring took place. The Novice twisted his trunk round his antagonist's and tried to turn him, Jem retaliated by putting his tusk into the young one's kissing trap (first blood for Conkey Jem). Round 3. Much the same. The Novice



THE RELIGIOUS MAY MEETINGS.—ENTRANCE TO EXETER HALL.

bellowing and evidently fuming. Round 4 and last. The Novice's friends, finding that he would not come to the scratch, threw up the sponge, and the Conkey was hailed a winner, with scarcely a mark upon him. The cowardly behaviour of the Novice excited the disgust of the King, and it was very amusing to see the jaunty air with which the winner walked about the arena, pointing his toes, and flourishing his trunk. The elephants were now hobbled with chains, and walked off to their respective residences. It was then announced that a rhinoceros fight would take place. Accordingly, two of these hideous animals were produced and set perfectly free. One of the animals was older and more stolid than the other, who, on being unchained, jumped and bucked all over the place, with an agility which no one would ever have supposed such a creature to possess. The older one seemed to know what was coming, and kept himself cool for the encounter. Presently they came close together, and watched each other angrily, with heads down to the ground; the younger one, however, did not want to fight, and turned away pursued by the other, who could not catch him. This happened several times, and we began to think that they would not engage; the spearmen began to prick the young one smartly in the rear, but this made him turn and charge them, when they scuttled off through the apertures in the walls. One man nearly came to grief; he was irritating the young one from behind, when the old animal, who was pursuing the other, came up, and without seeing the man apparently, bowled him over with his shoulder. Presently both animals, being worked up to the requisite pitch of ferocity, engaged in earnest. Their mode of fighting is very peculiar; they put their heads down as low as possible, each trying to get his horned nose under the throat of his antagonist, and working away to get a good hold, the one whose head is uppermost tries all sorts of jerks and shifts to get free, and sometimes succeeds. There is a great deal of very skilful and quick wrestling in this struggle. As soon as one of them gets a firm hold he heaves the other slowly up, pressing forward as he lifts. When one was well lifted into the air he generally came down unhurt, and instantly renewed the struggle; it was indeed a wonderful sight to see these huge creatures alternately lifting one another up, and exerting their marvellous strength. The fight lasted about half-an-hour, the combatants being liberally doused with water, to lay the dust which would otherwise have obscured their manœuvres. Both were very much exhausted, and grunted terribly, but their fury was unabated. It was now, however, considered that they had had enough of it, and they were separated by letting off fireworks close to their noses; and they were then chained and led slowly off."



THE MAY MEETINGS AT EXETER HALL.—A SKETCH IN THE INTERIOR.

DESMORO; OR, THE RED HAND
NO. 99, BOW BELLS. ONE PENNY.

The Court.

The Prince and Princess of Wales are expected to return to Sandringham in June or July, to witness a great cricket match, which is to be played in Sandringham Park, and for which the greatest efforts are being made to prepare the ground in front of Park House, General Knollys' residence.

The date at first assigned for the marriage of the Princess Helena and Prince Christian was the 9th of July. It is now, however, announced for the 5th of July, for which day it is finally fixed. There will be some Court gaieties prior to the auspicious event, namely, a grand State concert at Buckingham Palace on the 25th of May, and a State ball at Buckingham Palace on the 25th of June.

It is expected that her Majesty will visit Aldershot in a short time, when military manoeuvres on an extended scale will probably take place.

His Serene Highness Prince Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, after a visit of eleven days to the Court at Osborne, returned to the Continent on Saturday last. The prince, attended by one of her Majesty's equerries, with his suite, reached London early in the afternoon, and travelled in a saloon carriage attached to the express train of the South-Eastern Railway to Dover, where the Admiralty steam-yacht Vivid was in readiness to convey the illustrious visitor across the Channel.

Their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, the Duke of St. Albans, and Baron Bentinck occupied her Majesty's box at the Royal Italian Opera on Monday night, and witnessed the performance of "Faust e Margherita." Their royal highnesses were attended by Viscountess Walden and Major Grey.

THE OPENING OF THE LONDON SEASON.

THE concert season of London has now fairly set in, and it we wish to pay a visit to one or more, a glance at the columns of the Times will give a list, both of secular and sacred musical meetings, enough to bewilder one and set himself puzzling as to where he really should go. Since the establishment of St. James's Hall, the prestige of the Hanover-square Rooms has somewhat fallen, though the concerts held there still keep up their fashionable appearance. Our characteristic engraving on page 745 represents one of these concerts at the latter place, and those who have visited the Hanover-square Rooms at this season of the year will at once recognise its truthfulness.

FASHIONS FOR MAY.

[From La Follet]

EACH spring the Parisian aristocracy introduce some fashion which is reserved for themselves alone. That for the present season is one for which every woman of taste has an innate tendency; it is the preference given to white, either for home or ball dress. The great care and numberless expenses connected with such a toilette make it a luxury for the rich only, when adopted for home or morning dress; at the same time it is generally a proof of elegance and good taste. These morning dresses are no longer called peignoirs, although they are in a costume negligé. That which constitutes their recherché elegance is their apparent simplicity. No parvienne would be satisfied with a simple white dress trimmed only with a roche of the same, or narrow tucks on the skirt. She might have a splendid peignoir embroidered in gold and elaborately trimmed; but a dress so simple would not be her taste. One must have it from the cradle, it can never be merely learned.

These white dresses, which will be so fashionable, are composed of a long skirt of percale, and a short cascade of the same; the cascade not fitting, but showing the figure. Some are trimmed with the narrow ruche already spoken of, forming a small grecque, and fastened on with a coloured cotton. Others have an insertion, with a gurgule at each edge; and again, others are made in large scallops, trimmed either with a fancy braid all white, or white and coloured. The taste for white is not new; it has always been adopted by the grand monde. We might, in proof of this, go back to the time of the Romans, when the dress of white wool was that of the patrician lady.

Another marked preference in the same circle is that for white and black, white and lilac, or grey and white. These form the walking dresses of those who wear white at home. Indeed, now that the dress and jacket must match, one has not much choice of colour, as anything very striking or bright is by no means suitable for such a style of toilette.

We still find striped or plain materials are more generally in favour than any other, they are so decidedly the most suitable for skirts on the bias. Indeed, stripes cut thus produce a pretty effect, forming into points where they join. Many dresses are made quite plain. When trimming is used, bands of taffetas on the bias are frequently employed. Many gurgules also, and small round mother-of-pearl buttons are very fashionable, especially on the "Princesse" make of dress, which will, without doubt, predominate through the summer.

As the warmer weather approaches, it appears that the cascade, formed simply by baques fastened on to a waistband, will be adopted. It is more convenient for the present make of dress than the former fashion of having no body to the dress under the out-of-doors jacket, which was so frequently the resource of ladies when the heat was too great to admit of the double vestment. Of course, these baques must be well cut, and fitted to the waist in such a manner that they do not appear separate.

We must now turn our attention to the most important part of the toilette, the bonnet. But is there such a thing to be seen? It seems doubtful. One may, indeed, see floating tulle—something round and indescribable—on the summit of the head, which is called a bonnet; but it is difficult, we confess, to believe it is one—and yet such is the bonnet of the day.

The "Lamballe" seems to be quite the favourite. It does not reach to the cheeks, and has a round crown, which leaves the ears and back hair quite free. Thus, a chapeau "Lamballe" of tulle bouillon, with a trimming of rice straw and white hyacinth. These bonnets are placed on the very summit of the head, and have no cap—simply a border or edging. That of hyacinth, just spoken of, is merely string like those made by children, of lilac or wild flowers.

Another "Lamballe" was of rice straw, with a blonde at the back and a crystal fringe across the front.

Hanging strings are quite in the fashion. Two sets of strings are usually put—one to fasten the little square or round of tulle, the other crossing under the chin and fastened with a bouquet of flowers, or floating carelessly over the shoulders.

Flowers will be the favourite ornament for bonnets this season; and we do not wonder at this when we see with what exquisite skill they are copied and arranged.

DU BARRY'S DELICIOUS HEALTH-RESTORING INVALID AND INFANT'S FOOD, the Revalenta Arabica, yields twice the nourishment of the best meat and cereals, without medicine or inconvenience. Dyspepsia (indigestion), Cough, Asthma, Consumption, Debility, Palpitation of the Heart, Constipation, Diarrhoea, Acidity, Heartburn, Nervous, Biliary, Liver and Stomach complaints, and saves fifty times its cost in other remedies. 50,000 cures annually. Du Barry and Co., 77, Regent-street, London, W. In tin, at 1s 1d; 1lb, 2s 6d; 10lbs, 24s. At all grocers.—[Advertisement.]
GENTLEMAN ONLY.—Avoid the unpleasantness caused by the loss of a brace button, by insulating upon having your trousers fitted with BUSSET'S PATENT BUTTONS, which never come off, and are fixed at the rate of five per minute. Patentees' Depot, 482, New Oxford-street, W.C.—[Advertisement.]

THE LAST NIGHT OF THE REFORM BILL DEBATE.

THE attendance of spectators in Palace-yard and Westminster Hall to see the members pass into the House of Commons on the last day of the reform debate was smaller than might have been expected—certainly much smaller than assembled on the first night of the debate. The leading members on both sides were, of course, easily recognised, and both were pretty equally applauded. Mr. Gladstone was very warmly received, though he hardly appeared to notice it, sitting calm in an open carriage, and looking careworn and pale. Mr. Disraeli, who came a few minutes before, was quite as warmly cheered as Mr. Gladstone, the only difference being that whereas Mr. Gladstone was only cheered, several hisses mingled with the applause given to the Conservative chief. Beyond this there was no manifestation of hostile feeling to any one, and very little signs of feeling at all. It is scarcely necessary to say that in the house itself all the seats set aside for strangers, and those set aside for peers, peers' sons, and visitors of distinction were densely crowded—in fact, only two in the gallery facing the Speaker were unoccupied, and these were reserved for the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge. The body of the house, however, was by no means full, and contrasted strongly with the crowded attendance on the previous day, when Mr. Lowe opened the debate. Neither did the numbers show the slightest tendency to increase as Lord Cranborne proceeded; and when he was followed by a number of smaller speakers the attendance was at one time so small that apparently any mischievously inclined member might have moved that the house be counted, though, of course, there were so many members in attendance that the motion would have effected nothing beyond showing how for a time the interest in the debate had flagged within the walls of parliament itself. The hull of excitement, however, was but short, and arose more from the necessity which members felt of fortifying themselves in the supper-room against the fatigue of what they were sure would be an unusually long and exciting sitting. By nine o'clock the tide of members set steadily back again, and before ten, when Mr. Disraeli was expected to rise, every place was crowded. Never did the house present a more thronged appearance or more earnest and interested aspect. The Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge had both taken their places in the Speaker's gallery, both the side galleries were crammed with members, and all below the bar was absolutely blocked by a crowd so great that they frequently transgressed the traditional limits within which they are not supposed to be present, and were only kept back by the occasional cries of "Bar, bar." Mr. Disraeli did not bring his speech to a close till one o'clock; the tumult of applause with which he was greeted lasted some minutes, and during this time his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales left the house. Mr. Gladstone spoke for almost precisely two hours, with great fluency, but, at the same time, with wonderful calmness. Nothing could exceed the attention and deference with which the Chancellor was listened to, and even the cheering of the Government members who sat behind him was less than usual, though when it did break forth it was loud and vehement. Mr. Gladstone spoke till ten minutes past three, and on resuming his seat, amid the most prolonged cheers, was as pale, and seemed almost as much exhausted as though on the point of fainting. When at last the applause ceased, the excitement became intense, though silence was most rigidly preserved while the Speaker rose, and rather hastily read over the words of Lord Grosvenor's amendment, to which there was the usual alternately tumultuous reply of "Ayes" and "Noes." The two-minute sand-glass was then turned, and the division bells rang all over the house till the last and most distant of the straggling members were brought within the bar. At the same time the Speaker's gallery and all the parts which are technically supposed to be in the house were cleared of strangers, the Dukes of Cambridge being, among others, ejected, in accordance with old custom, which allows none but members to be within the precincts or body of the house itself while a division is being taken. The question was then again put, and with the same uproarious result of negatives and affirmatives, and when the last of these shouts had died away the Speaker said, "Ayes to the right and Noes to the left," and the house began to divide. The great crowd of members filed out very slowly into their respective lobbies, one by one, and the whole process of taking the division occupied nearly twenty minutes. The four tellers—Lord Grosvenor and Lord Stanley for the Opposition and Mr. Brand and Mr. W. P. Adam for the Government—were the last to leave the house, and almost immediately after their departure both parties began to return, much more rapidly than they had quitted. Before half had taken their seats it was known through the efforts of an enthusiastic Conservative, who had been at the polls to count the members, that no less a number than 315 would vote for the amendment, and against the Bill. The greatest anxiety was everywhere evinced to find out what the number of Government supporters would be, but nothing transpired on this subject till the returns were actually read in the house. As soon as the members had taken their places the tellers gave their returns to the clerk of the house, who, after having read them, called the tellers forward, who came up to the chair with the three usual deep reverences. According to usual custom the returns were handed to the whipper-in of the party who has the majority, and when the papers were placed in the hands of Mr. Brand the cheering of the Government members was tremendous. An almost complete silence, however, fell upon them when the numbers were read and the majority was seen to be so small as to make the decision a virtual defeat of the Government measure. On the other hand, the excitement and enthusiasm of the Opposition seemed to know no bounds, and such a scene ensued of waving hats and handkerchiefs and loud cheering as has probably seldom been witnessed on any division in the House of Commons. Conspicuous also on the Government side were the cheers of the Liberal members who had opposed the Bill, and who vied in their manifestations of delight with the members of the Opposition. The brief sentence with which Mr. Gladstone, when silence was at last restored, announced his intention of fixing the course of public business on Monday evening was hailed with almost similar cheers, and was evidently taken by the Opposition as implying that some modification or reconsideration of the Franchise Bill might then be submitted to the house. In a minute afterwards all hurried to get away, and the members streamed out into the Palace-yard, where, notwithstanding the lateness of the hour, a large crowd was collected. These people cheered with the most perfect impartiality the leaders of both parties. Not a symptom of angry feeling seemed to be manifested towards any one. The division list gives the following results:—

VOTED FOR GOVERNMENT.				
Liberals	...	...	...	318
Conservatives	...	...	...	2—320
VOTED AGAINST GOVERNMENT.				
Conservatives	...	...	...	282
Liberals	...	...	...	33—315

VERY COMFORTABLE.—Persons can now have Teeth to replace those lost, so that they cannot perceive any difference. Mr. Edward A. Jones, the Dentist, of 119, Strand, and 55, Cornmarket-terrace, Hyde-park, has just exhibited a new system, with a soft elastic gum, so that the roots and loose teeth can be covered and protected. No springs are used and there is no pain.—[Advertisement.]

TWO SHILLING PRIZE GOLD FANCIER'S CASE, 2½ inches long, with a reserve of beads, real stone seals, rings to attach them to chain, and free by return of post for 26 stamps. FASKER, 1, Hanway-street, Oxford-street; W. N.B.—The whole stock of watches and jewellery at a great discount; 2s. taken off every 20s., and 1s. 6d. off every 10s. purchase. Watch clock, and jewellery price list one stamp. The proprietor removing to Oxford-street.—[Advertisement.]

PARLIAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS.

In the House of Lords, Lord Oshesford laid on the table a Bill to amend the law relating to Sunday trading.

In the House of Commons, the select committees on the Wakefield and Banbury petitions reported that Mr. Leatham had been duly elected for the former, and Mr. Samuelson for the latter borough. The committee on the King's County petition also reported that Sir P. O'Brien, the sitting member, had been duly elected. On the motion of Mr. Brand, a new writ was ordered for the election of a member for Sandwich in the room of Lord O. Paget, resigned; for Reading, in the room of Mr. Lefevre, appointed a civil lord of the Admiralty. On the motion of Colonel Taylor, a new writ was ordered for the election of a member for North Devon, in the room of Mr. Trefusis, called to the House of Peers by the death of his father, Lord Clinton. At a quarter to five o'clock, the benches and galleries being crowded to excess by members who had come down in the expectation of hearing some announcement with regard to the course which ministers contemplate taking, in consequence of the division on Saturday morning, the Chancellor of the Exchequer rose and stated that the Government did not see in that division any reason or warrant for desisting from the effort in which they were engaged to pass into law a measure for the improvement of the representation of the people. They understood their position to be this:—Not to dwell on the slight numerical difference between the majority and the minority; that one moiety of the house was prepared to accede to the proposal to enter upon the consideration of the Franchise Bill, on the pledge given by the Government that they would introduce a Bill for the redistribution of seats in England and Wales, and Bills relating to reform in Scotland and Ireland previous to going into committee on the Franchise Bill; and that the other moiety had not declared itself unwilling to enter upon the consideration of that Bill, but on the contrary, when the amendment was disposed of, had acquiesced without a division in the motion for the second reading, their objection having been that before they considered the Franchise Bill they must have before them the whole of the intentions of the Government as to the redistribution of seats, the boundaries of boroughs, and the arrangements for reform in Scotland and Ireland. It appeared, therefore, that the house was agreed to take into its consideration a measure of reform; and in these circumstances the Government had come to the conclusion that it was their duty to lose no time in producing the plan which they should recommend as to a redistribution of seats. That could not be done on Thursday, because it would not be convenient for the public business generally that his financial statement should be delayed beyond that day; but he proposed to ask leave to bring in the Bill for the redistribution of seats on Monday, and also to place for that day the motion for going into committee on the Franchise Bill. He should not, however, ask the house to go into committee at that time; but they would then be in a position to decide on the precise day on which the Speaker should leave the chair with a view to consider the Bill in committee. In answer to Mr. Whiteside, the Chancellor of the Exchequer stated that he hoped to introduce the Reform Bill relating to Ireland on Monday, and that so far as the intentions of the Government were concerned, it would be a complete measure. To questions from Sir L. Palk and Sir J. Ferguson, the right hon. gentleman replied that it might be taken for granted that no attempt would be made by Ministers to deprive members of the necessary time to consider the course they should adopt as to the plan for the redistribution of seats. The Bill for Scotland would be brought in by the Lord Advocate on Monday; but he was not prepared to give any pledge as to the future stages of the measure. Some further questions having been put and answered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject, the house went into committee of supply.

THE ATTEMPT UPON THE CZAR'S LIFE.

THE St. Petersburg journals are full of details respecting the recent attempt on the life of the Emperor and the rejoicings of the people at his escape. The Russian Gazette of St. Petersburg says that on the 6th instant the marshals and deputies of the St. Petersburg nobles resolved unanimously to present Oseip Ivanovitch Komissarof, the peasant who killed the assassin's aim, with a holy image, and to open for him a subscription, to which all the nobility of the district are invited to subscribe. The permanent deputations of the nobles waited upon him to obtain his consent to be enrolled in the book of nobles. Komissarof gratefully accepted the offer, and in doing so gave the following account of what took place:—

"I do not know myself what strange feeling possessed me when I saw that man pressing through the crowd. I was watching him, but when the Emperor came up he went out of my mind. All at once I saw him draw a pistol and aim at the Emperor. I thought myself that if I rushed upon him he would kill some one else, or, perhaps, myself, and without more ado I struck up his arm. The pistol went off, and after that I do not recollect anything. I was as it were in the midst of a fog, and when I came to myself I saw a general who embraced me. I was taken to the palace, but I was stunned, and it was an hour and a half before I could speak."

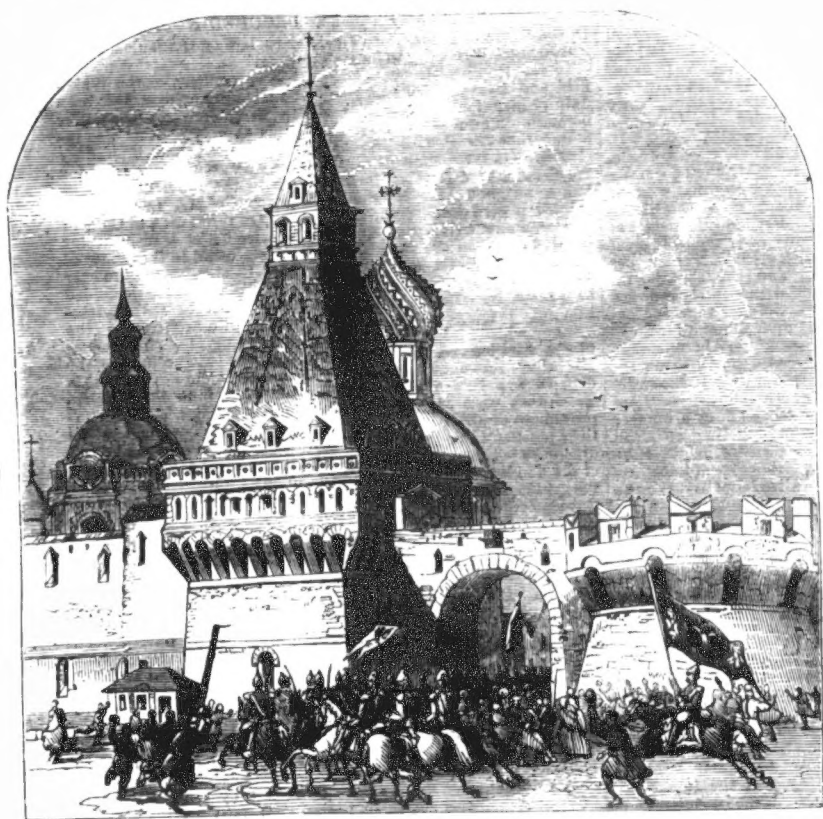
Apartments have been hired for him in the Roznais House. His family name will be changed into that Komissarof Kostromakof, in memory of the province which has twice furnished saviours to the Imperial house in a moment of danger. He was obliged to show himself on the stage of the Russian Theatre, and to relate what happened. He was invited to a grand banquet at the English Club. It is said that 600,000 (£24,000) have been subscribed for him in St. Petersburg alone, and that a proprietor of Kostroma has offered him a considerable quantity of land for the purpose of enabling him to support his new dignity. The Emperor himself, says a correspondent of the Nord, asked General Todleben as a personal favour to direct the education of Komissarof.

There is no end to the manifestations of loyalty which this event has called forth. Nor are these demonstrations confined to the Russians. All the foreigners of St. Petersburg have sent in addresses, prayers of thanksgiving have been offered up in the foreign churches, and appropriate sermons have been preached by all the Protestant clergymen.

At Moscow the enthusiasm seems to be greater even than at St. Petersburg. The little churches of the ancient capital could not accommodate a tenth part of the people who crowded to the altar, so a Te Deum was celebrated in the open air. (See illustrations on page 744.) The merchants treated the people, and threw silver amongst the crowd. At the theatre the national opera of "A Life for the Tsar" was substituted for the performance which had been advertised. Some scenes in which the Poles appeared were killed, and others for the same reason were entirely omitted, but the enthusiasm reached its height when, at the close of the piece, the actors brought the Emperor's portrait on to the stage and sang the National Anthem.

Subscriptions are opened to commemorate the event in different ways. The professors of the University of St. Petersburg have agreed to found a school in Komissarof's native village; one scholarship has been founded at the university by the Agricultural Society, and three at the Commercial Academy by the Russian Merchants' Club. But most of the subscriptions are raised for the purchase of images of different saints; all these, in compliance with a wish expressed by the Emperor, will be deposited in the new chapel which is to be built at the entrance to the Summer Garden.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS AT TROTTER'S WAREHOUSE, 365, WHITECHAPEL-ROAD. Superior Harmoniums from 41 to 6d. and upwards. New model pianofortes from sixteen guineas; also all other instruments and fittings, at the lowest possible prices. Price list, post-free.—[Advertisement.]



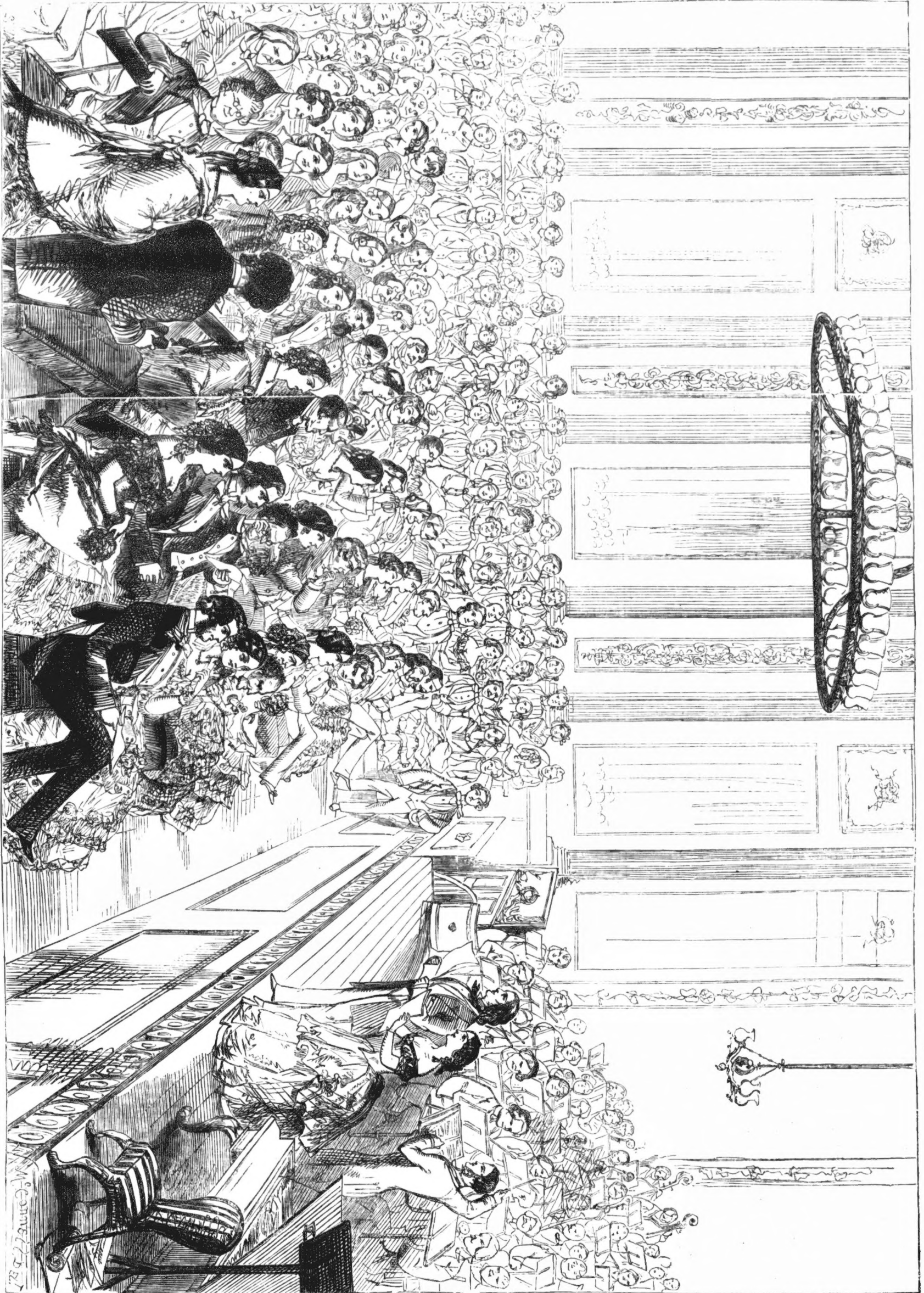
THE GATEWAY OF ST. NICHOLAS, MOSCOW.



CHURCH OF WILLIAM THE HAPPY.—OPEN AIR TE DEUM.



THE ATTEMPT ON THE LIFE OF THE CZAR.—REJOICINGS BEFORE THE CATHEDRAL OF ASSUMPTION, MOSCOW. (See page 743.)



THE OPENING OF THE LONDON SEASON—CONCERT AT THE HANOVER-SQUARE ROOMS.

W. M. G. 1866

Theatricals, Music, etc.

HER MAJESTY'S.—On Saturday evening, "Il Trovatore" was represented with an admirable cast. The character of Leonora introduced Mdlle Louise Lichtmay for the first time, who, despite her labouring under great disadvantage, made a favourable impression on the audience. Her voice is of full quality and great power, and when she has, by a few successive appearances, conquered her nervousness, Mdlle. Lichtmay may be reasonably expected to take a prominent place among the members of Mr. Mapleson's company. The lady is a skilful, correct, and fluent vocalist, one proof of this being clearly set forth by a remarkably perfect shake. She is also an actress of considerable power and intensity, her thorough abandon in the "Miserere" scene producing such an ebullition of feeling from all parts of the house that she very properly came on and acknowledged the compliment. This was not the only recall during the progress of the opera, for her brilliant execution of the air for Leonora procured for her another recall to the stage. The other principal event of the evening was the reappearance, after some years absence, of Signor Mongini as Mario. His reception was most enthusiastic, and his triumph complete. As, however, in our next, we intend giving a portrait of this gifted artist, we shall reserve our criticism of his masterly performance until then. Madame Demerio-Lablache, whose talent we recorded after her first performance of Azucena, has now invested it with a more picturesque charm than ever. The merits of Mr. Santley's Conte di Luna are well known, and do not need repetition. He was in splendid voice, and, as usual, "Il balen" was redemanded. Madame Demerio-Lablache was recalled more than once, and at the end of the opera the four principals were summoned to receive the parting congratulations of the audience. A bouquet was thrown, which Signor Mongini presented to Mdlle. Lichtmay. The lady offered it to Madame Demerio-Lablache, who declined it. The band and chorus were fully equal to every requirement. On Tuesday evening "I Puritani" was performed, when Mr. Hohler again made his appearance, and fully justified the favourable verdict already accorded to him.

COVENT-GARDEN.—The Prince and Princess of Wales, attended by Viscountess Walden and Major Grey, visited the Italian Opera on Monday evening, when Gounod's "Faust and Margherita" was performed with the following cast:—Margherita, Mdlle. Pauline Lucena; Siebel, Mdlle. Morensi; Maria, Mdlle. Anese; Meffistofele, Signor Attri; Valentino, Signor Graziani; Wagner, Signor Tagliabue; and Faust, Signor Mario. On Tuesday Bellini's Opera of "Norma" was played for the first time this season. Norma, Madame Maria Vilda; Adalgisa, Mdlle. Lustrant; Clotilde, Mdlle. Anese; Oraveo, Signor Attri; Flavio, Signor Bossi; and Pollio, Signor Brignoli. On this occasion Madame Vilda made her first appearance in England, and was favourably received.

NEW SURREY.—Miss Avonla Jones made her appearance on Saturday evening last, when Dr. Mosenthal's famous drama of "Leah" was produced for the first time at the Surrey. The character of Leah is well suited to Miss Avonla Jones's histrionic powers. In the first act when she appears surrounded by the bigoted and superstitious crowd, among whom she seeks for Rudolf, her attitude and aspect were strikingly indicative of eagerness and self-reliance. The ardour of the Jewish maiden's love for the young Christian, and her dread of being forsaken by him on account of the race to which she belonged, were powerfully exhibited. Mr. Fernandez performed his part in a very superior manner, displaying appropriate feeling and energy in a high degree. The tone in which Miss Jones expressed hate and scorn, and vowed vengeance, and cursed Rudolf when she encountered him on the day on which he married Madelon, was soathing and terrible in the extreme. Miss Jones was very successful also in the last act, when embracing the child of Rudolf, and when she forgives her former lover, the tender portion of the audience paying the tribute of moistened eyes as a token of the way in which they were affected. We must not omit to mention with praise Miss Rose Ogilvie's excellent acting as Madelon, and Mr. Edgar's, as Nathan, which was very effective. Mr. Maclean, as Lorenz, and Mr. Butler, as Father Herman, most efficiently sustained their respective parts. The Ludwig of Mr. J. Hillier, the Sarah of Mr. Brooke, and the Abraham of Mr. Lloyd, were good, and the rest of the characters were well sustained. The new scenery was beautiful and exceedingly appropriate. "Leah" was preceded by the musical interlude "The Bonnie Fishwife," in which Mr. Maclean, Mr. Haynes, and Mr. Thompson performed with their customary ability. Miss Goodhall, who personated Miss Thistle-down, was heartily applauded for her excellent singing of the song "Thou art so near, and yet so far," and the ballet "Oller Herrin," both of which were encored. This week "The Spectre Bridegroom" has preceded the drama.

VICTORIA.—A new sensational drama, from the French, was produced here on Saturday evening. It bears the ominous title of "The Hanged Man." The plot turns on the fortunes of one Gilbert Denier (Mr. H. Forrester), who has married in his youth a beautiful girl, passing under the name of Diana Mendez (Mrs. J. F. Young), a woman of many aliases, and, as it turns out, of husbands also, an adventuress, in fact, whom Gilbert eventually finds plotting to poison him. Fully convinced of the perfidy of his wife, Denier first upbraids her with her vicious conduct, and then flies from her presence for ever. Diana, aided by her brother, Moretto Cospetto (Mr. F. Thomas), a fit agent for such a sister, finds out that Gilbert Denier has not only become heir to a large property, but has actually committed bigamy, and married a lovely peasant girl, Susanne Kervalle (Miss M. Daly). Diana's object is now, consequently, to find out the whereabouts of her traitor husband, triumph over her rival, the second wife, and compel Gilbert to share his fortune with her. In carrying out her scheme she falls into the snare laid for her husband, and at the moment of her seeming triumph is arrested for bigamy. So far poetical justice is rendered to all, and the curtain drops on the happiness of Gilbert and Susanne, and the discomfiture of Diana and her brother. There is, of course, an underplot in this instance, in which Mr. George Yarnold, as Christol le Blanc, one of Diana's husbands, creates, as the hanged man, considerable amusement, and, indeed, supports the whole of the comic humour of the drama. The piece is extremely well acted, well mounted, and was certainly most warmly received. The successful drama of "The London Arab" concluded the evening's performance. The house, as usual, was filled to overflowing.

PRINCE OF WALES.—The excellent drama of "Society" after a lengthened run has been brought to a close. This evening (Saturday) a new three-act drama, by Mr. H. T. Byron, will be produced, entitled "A Hundred Thousand Pounds." The burlesque of "Little Bon Giovanni" continues its career.

MR. AND MRS. CHARLES KEAN.—After an absence of three years Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kean have arrived in England. They appeared at the Theatre Royal, Liverpool, during the past week; and will appear at the Princess's, London, on the 17th of May.

DRURY-LANE.—The committee of this establishment have announced that they are ready to receive tenders for its rental. Tenders to be sent in not later than the 19th May next.

CRYSTAL PALACE.—The thirteenth season of this popular place of amusement commenced on May-day, when a grand concert of five thousand voices was given by children and others connected with the metropolitan schools, conducted by Mr. G. W. Martin. Richard also re-appeared, his lofty pole for the nonce being converted into a gigantic May-pole. The day, unfortunately, was most unpropitious. On Wednesday, Mr. Charles Dickens gave a

reading of "Little Dombey." This day (Saturday), the concert season will be inaugurated by a great performance on the Handel orchestra of Handel's "Airs and Galates"—Mdlle. Titiens, Signori Gasdoni and Stagno, with Mr. Santley, being the principal vocalists. The band of the company, largely reinforced, and a chorus of nearly one thousand carefully-selected voices, under the direction of Mr. Menus, will, it is anticipated, present this favourite serenade of Handel's in a manner worthy of the occasion. Eight other opera concerts will follow on Saturdays. The great flower show of the season will be held under the most favourable auspices on Saturday, 12th May. As a feature of additional interest, and to afford additional accommodation, the beautiful gardens of Book-hills, adjoining the palace, and the residence of the late Sir Joseph Paxton, will be thrown open to visitors. These gardens will be again thrown open on the day of the great rose show, Saturday, 23rd of June. The revels on behalf of the Royal Dramatic College will be held early in July. At no time have the palace and grounds been in better condition, nor have more objects of special interest been accessible to visitors.

THEATRICAL LICENSES AND REGULATIONS.

The committee of the House of Commons appointed to inquire into the state of the law affecting theatrical licenses and regulations re-assembled on Monday, Mr. Goschen, M.P., in the chair.

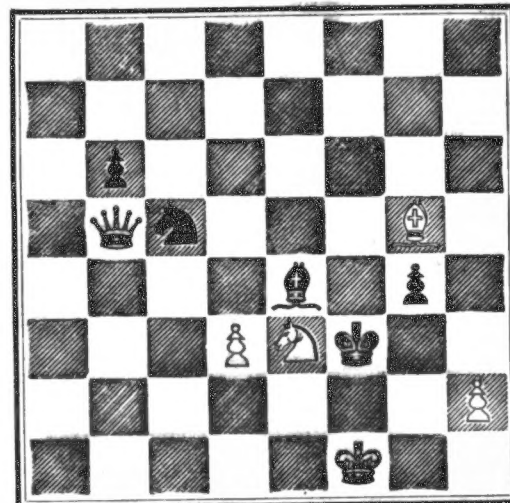
Mr. Smith, lessee of Astley's Theatre and Cremorne Gardens, was first examined. He deposed that he thought the present system of licensing theatres worked well. The music-halls did not suffer from the system, but, on the contrary, the theatres did. The taste was at present more in favour of music-halls than theatres, because people preferred the former as they could sit down and enjoy the performance while they drank their grog, smoked their pipes, and could have a chat. There ought to be some check on some of the music-halls, in which performances were produced that were disgraceful. Some of the halls, such as the Alhambra, the Canterbury, and the Oxford, were respectably conducted. He only objected to the drama being performed before persons smoking and drinking. If drinking were done away with at these performances it would have a beneficial effect, because people would go out when they wanted refreshment and procure it at the taverns. The prices paid, and the demand for good new plays had increased, and he was at present in treaty with Mr. Boucicault for a new drama. Theatres were now not so well supported as formerly, and he might mention that, when lessee of Drury Lane, he had lost 3500*l.* by an engagement of G. V. Brooke. There were more theatres in London at present than there was demand for. The demand for good actors was as good as ever, and clever actors could command excellent salaries. Witness had paid Charles Mathews 100*l.* a week at Drury Lane. The witness deposed that he had given a gentleman, who took a box from him, a key to go behind the scenes. At Cremorne the season was just opening. He did not share in the opinion expressed by Mr. Webster that burlesques were the bane of the drama. Witness did not agree with Mr. Webster that as a general rule detectives were employed in theatres to detect and put out improper characters. Witness never employed detectives at Astley's, Cremorne, Drury Lane, or the Alhambra. Large sums of money have been made by some London managers. Davidge made 25,000*l.* at the Surrey, Ducrow made 60,000*l.*; and Mr. Phelps and Mr. Greenwood amassed large sums at Sadler's Wells. He certainly did not think that improper characters were prevented from going into theatres by having a detective at the pay-office who pointed them out, when their money was not taken. Witness would not refuse the money of these women. He would admit them and allow them to remain so long as they conducted themselves properly, to ensure which there was a policeman on duty. He had no objection to the performance of scenes from operas, as given at Weston's and the Oxford, because no dresses or scenery were used in representing them. He did not think it was the fact that a man was killed by a beast at Astley's, which injured that house. He thought that if a man were killed every night at a house it would be a capital draw. (Laughter.) Witness did not find "Der Freischütz" draw good houses. He found *patience* and *Menken* as *Mazepa* most successful, especially the latter, as the public had a great taste for that style of performance. (Laughter.) The drawing of curtains in private boxes was not allowed or general. He would say in reference to that matter, *Honi soit qui mal y pense*.

Mr. Dion Boucicault was next examined. He said he had written between 180 and 200 dramatic pieces, many of which had been performed at the principal London theatres. He had experience of the dramatic profession as an author, manager, actor, and builder of theatres. He was at present bringing out "Arrah-na-Pogue" in French, at Paris. He thought the Lord Chamberlain was not the proper person to license plays, because the office was changeable with the Ministry, and the play which one Chamberlain licensed his successor might refuse to license. There ought to be an appeal from the decision of the Chamberlain. There was no licensing of theatres in the United States, where the standard of the drama was much higher than it was in England. The standard of the drama was higher, because the pieces produced were of a better character than those produced in this country, and the legitimate drama was more generally produced in America. Besides, there were theatres in almost every city in the States where the legitimate drama was played, and tragedies and comedies had longer runs than plays of any other description. He thought the public were the best check upon anything objectionable in a play. Many passages in plays which were licensed, and escaped even the perception of the actor, did not escape the sharpness of the public. As an illustration he might state that in a play written by him, and produced some years ago in London, called "Old Heads and Young Hearts," there was a love scene in which Mr. Charles Mathews, who played a gentleman, said to a lady, while on his knees, "I came to sooth, but I remained to pray," which was a quotation from Cowper. The audience imagined it was from Byron and hissed it. In the same way, the prison scene in "Never too Late to Mend" was licensed by the Lord Chamberlain, but was disapproved by the public, and cut out of the piece after a short time. The licensor of theatres ought to have a permanent appointment, and there ought to be some appeal from his decision, so that he could not exercise an arbitrary power. The licensor of theatres, with respect to the fitness of the building, should be an architect who understood building matters and not the Lord Chamberlain. He thought if political allusions were strongly placed on the stage—for instance, if Mr. Buckstone, as was suggested, were to play Earl Russell—the public would not approve of them. With respect to religion, he was of opinion that the Lord Chamberlain was capricious, because he prohibited the production at Drury Lane of "Moses in Egypt," and yet permitted that of the parable of the "Prodigal Son." The license of the Lord Chamberlain ought not to carry a wine and spirit license, but the latter should be applied for to the magistrates. In the American theatres the audience could smoke or drink, but they did not do so because they went to the theatre for a specific object—for an intellectual and not a sensual enjoyment. In America the people who wanted to smoke and drink went to the music-halls. The drama could be produced at the American music-halls, and at Niblo's Theatre in New York, when the drama was imported into it, smoking and drinking in the auditorium disappeared. Witness had perhaps a larger pecuniary interest in the drama than any other person in the profession. He produced certain pieces in London at one or two theatres, and shared the profits. The pieces were sent down to the country, and he derived half the net profits from perhaps five or six theatres at the same moment. The present restrictions as to the number of theatres were detrimental to his interest and that of other dramatic authors.

The committee then adjourned.

Chess.

PROBLEM No. 856.—By C. W. (of Sunbury).
Black.



White.
White to move, and mate in three moves.

Game between Messrs. Watkinson and Latham.

- | White.
Mr. W. | Black.
Mr. L. |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. P to K4 | 1. P to K4 |
| 2. Kt to K B3 | 2. P to Q8 |
| 3. P to Q4 | 3. P takes P |
| 4. Q takes P | 4. B to Q2 (a) |
| 5. B to K8 | 5. Kt to K B8 |
| 6. Kt to Q B3 | 6. B to K2 |
| 7. B to Q B4 | 7. P to Q R3 |
| 8. P to K R3 | 8. Kt to Q B3 |
| 9. Q to Q2 | 9. P to K R3 (b) |
| 10. Kt to K2 | 10. Castles |
| 11. Kt to K Kt3 | 11. Kt to K4 |
| 12. Kt takes Kt | 12. P takes Kt |
| 13. Castles (K R) (c) | 13. B to Q B3 |
| 14. B to Q8 | 14. Kt to K R2 |
| 15. Q R to Q square | 15. B to K Kt4 |
| 16. Kt to K B5 | 16. B takes B |
| 17. Q takes B | 17. Q to K Kt4 |
| 18. P to K B4 | 18. P takes P |
| 19. R takes P | 19. Kt to K B3 (d) |
| 20. P to K R4 | 20. Q takes B (e) |
| 21. Q takes Q | 21. K R to K square |
| 22. Kt takes B P (ch) | 22. P takes Kt |
| 23. Q takes Kt | 23. B to K8 |
| 24. Q to K B4 | 24. B to Q square |
| 25. R to K B square | 25. Q to Q2 |
| 26. B to Q B4 | 26. B takes K P |
| 27. B takes K B P (ch) | 27. K to B square |
| 28. Q takes K R P (ch) | 28. K to K2 |
| 29. Q to K B6 (ch) | Black resigns |
- (a) This move has the sanction of many of our best players; but for our own part, we prefer the old-fashioned reply of Kt to Q B5.
(b) At first sight, it appears that Black might have won a Pawn by P to Q Kt4; but this is not the case; e.g.:—
White. Black.
10. B to Kt3 9. P to Q Kt4
11. Kt to K2 10. P to Q Kt5
12. Q to Q5, &c. 11. Kt takes K P
(c) He might also, apparently, have Castled with advantage on the Queen's side.
(d) A palpable blunder, which loses the game at once. He ought rather to have played Q B to K square.
(e) He has clearly no better resource. If he play Q to K B4, White rejoins with B to K2.

BRFO.—There appears to be some misplacement of the pieces in the problem to which you allude, which will no doubt be explained when the solution appears.

J. P.—All problems intended for publication should be subject to frequent and rigid examinations before they are forwarded to us. Both of your problems are incorrect.

ALEXIS.—Where mate is to be given with a particular Pawn, it must be effected before the Pawn reaches its 8th square; the Pawn cannot legally give mate as a piece.

Sporting.

DOINGS AT TATTERSALL'S.

A WIDE-SPREAD rumour that Lord Lyon had broken down at exercise and the settlement for the Chester Cup brought together a very large number of the subscribers on Monday, who soon ascertained by the offers of 5 to 2 on the field for the Derby that the Two Thousand winner was unscathed. He was backed for several hundred pounds, and left off an equal favourite with Rustic, whose supporters were not less staunch. Bedan, from a favourable trial with Lucifer, advanced to 10 to 1, and Vespasian at 12 to 1 had friends. A slight improvement in the Bribery colt, and a corresponding decline in Blue Riband were the only other features in the betting, which, on the whole, was dull for the season of the year. The Chester Cup settlement was far from favourable, but not worse than had been anticipated from the recent reverses of the ring.

THE DERBY.—5 to 2 agt Mr. R. Sutton's Lord Lyon (t and off); 5 to 2 agt Duke of Beaufort's Rustic (t and off); 10 to 1 agt Lord St. Vincent's Bedan (t); 100 to 8 agt Mr. H. Chaplin's Vespasian (t); 20 to 1 agt Marquis of Albury's Bribery colt (t); 75 to 1 agt Mr. T. Dawson's Stabber (t and off); 28 to 1 agt Marquis of Hastings' Blue Riband (off); 30 to 1 Mr. R. O. Naylor's Monarch of the Glen (t).

Student has been struck out of the Derby.

A COUGH, COLD, OR AN IRRITATED THROAT, if allowed to progress, results in serious Pulmonary and Bronchial affections, oftentimes incurable. BROWN'S BRONCHIAL TROCHES reach directly the affected parts and give almost instant relief. In BRONCHITIS, ASTHMA, and CATARRH they are beneficial. They have gained a great reputation in America, and are now sold by all respectable medicine dealers in this country at 1*s.* 1*d.* per box.—[Advertisement.]

Law and Police.

POLICE COURTS.
MANION HOUSE.

CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD.—A foreigner, named Louis Daroché, was brought before Mr. Alderman Wilson, charged with conspiring, together with a man not in custody, to cheat, and actually cheating John Gino, a Spaniard, out of £19 10s. The prisoner was defended by Mr. Board. The prosecutor is a merchant at Malaga, and is now staying at Starr's Hotel, Farringdon-road. The prisoner was a stranger to him until about a fortnight ago. He met him near St. Paul's Cathedral, and the prisoner asked him the name of the cathedral, and he told him. The prisoner said, as they were both foreigners, he should be happy to see him at the Charing-cross Hotel, where he said he was staying. He met him again near Holborn, and asked him where he was going. The prosecutor said he was going to dine, upon which the prisoner said he would be glad to see him at a restaurant in Regent-street the next day, giving a name which has since proved to be fictitious. The prosecutor went there to see him on Saturday, and saw him in the coffee-room. The prisoner was then alone, and while they were taking some refreshment a young gentleman came in and asked the prosecutor in French if he had seen a young lady in a blue dress. The reply was in the negative. He said he had come to England to deposit in the Bank of England £20,000, which he said his uncle had left him, and now he found he was rich he had come to this country to enjoy himself for a month, not caring if he spent £1,000. The prisoner affected not to know the young man. The young man said he went the previous evening to the Argyl Rooms, where he met some English officers, and in the conversation he had with them they made a bet with him that he could not drop a coin on the floor so that it could stand upright on its edge. He said he could, and bet them £200 that he could. He dropped the coin a number of times on the floor, and could not do it, so that he lost the bet; but he was not at all concerned at the loss, as he could go next day and draw £500 at the bank. The prisoner, the young man, and witness then took a cab, and drove together to Marlborough-street. There the prisoner took up the hearthrug, and the prosecutor offered to bet the young man £1 he could not make the coin stand on its edge. He declined to bet a sovereign, but would not mind betting £20. The young man took out what appeared to be bank notes to the amount of £200 and handed them to the prisoner. The prosecutor offered to bet £19 10s., which was all the money he had at that time. Prisoner then offered to join prosecutor in a bet of £100 against the young man, the understanding being that in the event of losing the bet the prosecutor should only pay £19 10s. The young man then began to place a Spanish dollar on the floor, and made sixteen vain attempts to make it stand on its edge. The bet was that he was to make it stand so once in fifty times. The prosecutor asserted that it could not be done, upon which the prisoner remarked, "Let him pay for his temerity." At length, on the thirty-second time, the coin stood on its edge on the floor. The prosecutor up to that time had been engaged in scoring. At the thirty-first time the coin seemed to have been lost, and they were all three looking for it for some time. At last the prisoner said, "Here it is," and handed it to the young man. The latter then threw it edgewise on the floor, and it stood on its edge in a slanting position. The prosecutor then saw through the trick, and, taking up the coin and finding a sharp pin had been driven into the edge, by which it was made to stand, he complained that it was not fair. The prisoner said they had lost, and with that the young man snatched up the coin and ran out of the house, followed by the prisoner. The prisoner afterwards returned to the house for an umbrella he had left, and was given into custody. Remanded.

GUILDHALL.

AN INCONTINENT.—Selina Salter was placed before Alderman Waterlow, on remand, charged with creating a disturbance at the casual ward of the West London Union. The prisoner is only 18 years of age, and has been before this court nineteen times for disorderly conduct. On the 24th of last month she was charged with ringing the bell at the vagrant ward of the West London Union, brought before Alderman Waterlow, and discharged upon her promise not to go there again; but instead of keeping her promise, she went the same day to the ward and committed a similar offence, for which she was given in charge and again brought to this court. Alderman Bealey would not deal with the case, but remanded her for Alderman Waterlow to see her. Mr. Westhead, the governor of the City Prison at Holloway, attended and handed to the magistrate the following account of her career:—"Selina Salter is the daughter of a poor gardener of Bath. She was left motherless while yet young, and never agreed with the second wife whom her father married. He unfortunately possessed little or no control over her, and hence Selina was left much to her own inclinations. She was sent to school and subsequently to service, but she prospered in neither, and returned again to her father's home. Soon afterwards she suddenly left Bath, carrying with her money belonging to her step-mother, and reached London, where she sought and found a young man who had paid his addresses to her at Bath, but he repulsed her. She became a homeless vagrant, and led a wandering life from street to street and from union to union, until, becoming troublesome, she was sent to Holloway Prison for refractory conduct. Prison discipline wrought no favourable alteration in her character; diametrically opposite results ensued, and she returned to prison twelve times. Five times upon her discharge she was sent to Bath, where her father and the clergyman of the parish endeavoured to reclaim her. She remained but a short time in a situation they procured for her, and her vagrant propensities overcame good resolutions (if she had formed any), and by selling her clothes, made her appearance again in London. Once upon leaving Holloway she was sent to Parker-street Reformatory, where she remained but one night, and again became a wanderer. At length she consented, at the suggestion of the authorities, to emigrate to America, and an outfit was procured for her. An officer accompanied her to Liverpool and saw her safely on board the vessel. The girl eluded the officers of the ship, and concealing herself in the last boat escaped to the shore. Three days afterwards she appeared almost destitute at the prison gate. On the 29th of November, 1865, she was again despatched to New York, and this time reached her destination, and hopes were entertained that in another country she would become a better girl. Such hopes were futile. She worked her way back across the Atlantic, and again appeared in London. The City magistrates have done all in their power in this lamentable case. Gentlemen in the medical profession have pronounced her to be sane at present, but that her violent temper will ultimately derange her mind. The benevolence of charitable ladies has been vainly bestowed upon her. She makes promises, never to keep them, and is guilty of the most outrageous violence. She neither dreads punishment nor appreciates advice." Alderman Waterlow said this case was the most extraordinary that had ever come before him. He would send the prisoner again for seven days to Holloway, not in the expectation that the punishment would do her any good, but in the hope that some of the kind friends who visited the prison might devise some means of reclaiming her. The prisoner was then removed to the cells below the court, where she kept up a continual kicking at the door until removed in the van.

OLVERKEN WELL.

A BAD STORY.—Margaret Packreall, a respectably-dressed person, whose hair and features plainly showed that trouble had done more than its fair share of work, and who described herself as a

married woman, residing at No. 2, Hastings-street, Somers-town, was charged with taking a quantity of poison (precipitate powder), with intent to destroy herself, at the Crown public-house, Goldington-crescent, St. Pancras-road. It appeared from the evidence that Police-sergeant George Parry, 11 Y, was on Tuesday, the 17th inst., called to the above public-house, where he found the defendant apparently in a dying state, being attended to by the Miss Greaves, who managed the business. They informed him that the defendant had taken poison, and in proof of it pointed to an empty paper by the side of her labelled "Poison," that Mr. Watson had gone for a surgeon, and that in the mean time they had administered to her an emetic. On the arrival of Mr. Butt, the house-surgeon at St. Pancras workhouse, he also administered antidotes, and gave it in his opinion that had the Miss Greaves not acted in the prompt and kind manner they had the defendant would have died. As soon as the defendant was sufficiently recovered she was taken to the infirmary at the workhouse, where she had remained until this morning, when she was brought to this court. The defendant had stated that she was induced to take the poison as she was tired of her life in consequence of her husband having deserted her and gone away with another woman. He (Sergeant Parry) had made inquiries, and had ascertained that the husband was cohabiting with a young female, that since this occurrence he had left the neighbourhood, and at present no trace could be found of him, though, if a remand was granted, he had no doubt that he should be able to get some tidings of him. The defendant, who seemed overwhelmed with grief, said that she now deeply regretted that she should have attempted so foolish and wicked an act as that of destroying her life. It very much preyed on her mind that her husband should have deserted her and left her to starve whilst he kept another woman. Hers had indeed been a life of trouble, but she would never let trouble any more lead her into such a dilemma as she then was in. Mr. D'Eyncourt said that the defendant's was a sad story, and remanded her to the House of Detention for a few weeks, and directed that she should be seen by the chaplain.

MARLBOROUGH STREET.

CHARGE OF CONSPIRACY AGAINST FOOTMEN.—Thomas Hearne, footman, No. 31, Hill-street, Berkeley-square, and Walter Ling, footman, No. 43, Berkeley-square, were charged with conspiring together to defraud the Provident Institution Savings-bank, St. Martin's-place, of the sum of £2 1s. 6d. Mr. Boodle, manager at the bank, said that morning the prisoner Hearne produced a book, he having given notice the previous week to withdraw the sum of £2, standing in the name of Walter Ling. He told the prisoner that he had obtained the consent of the manager to the withdrawal of the money, that step being necessary, as the depositor was under twenty-one years of age, and because the prisoner had stated that he was a servant out of place and wanted the money. He gave the depositor's book to the ledger clerk, who wrote off the repayment in the depositor's book, which was then handed to the cashier. Mr. Yarrow, cashier, said the prisoner came to him for the money, and on comparing the signature produced with the original signature of Walter Ling he was not satisfied, and he spoke to the prisoner about the difference in the handwriting. The prisoner Hearne, who personated Ling, said he had not had much writing to do of late. He put further questions to the prisoner, and became satisfied that he was not the original depositor. He asked the prisoner positively whether the book he had produced was his own. The prisoner said that it was; that he was the depositor, and his name was Walter Ling. Witness refused to pay the money, and sent the book and the prisoner into the manager's office. Mr. Boodle said that when the prisoner came to him he said he was not satisfied about the signature. The prisoner again said that he was the depositor; but upon being pressed to tell the truth he admitted he was not. He then gave the prisoner into custody for forgery. At the station Ling was sent for, and when he came he was asked if he knew he was getting his friend into trouble by allowing him to personate him, referring him at the same time to a notice to that effect in the book of depositors. The prisoner having treated the matter very lightly, was given into custody for conspiring to attempt to defraud the trustees. Ling told him that Hearne had asked him to lend him some money; he gave Hearne his book, and told him to go and get the amount out of the savings' bank. Ling said he was aware he could not receive the money himself until he was twenty-one years of age. Mr. Tyrwhitt said it would be question for a jury to say whether the prisoners conspired together to defraud the bank, and whether they understood what they were about. As far as Hearne was concerned, it appeared to be an advised case; but with Ling it appeared to be different. Mr. Boodle was anxious to take the most lenient course. Mr. Tyrwhitt would remand the prisoners on bail. Shortly afterwards an application was made on behalf of the Baron de Oetting, ambassador to the King of Bavaria, for the release of Hearne, who is in his service. Mr. Tyrwhitt said great respect was due to ambassadors and their households. He should order the release of Hearne, but no ambassador, he thought, would wish to shield a servant charged with an offence. The applicant said Hearne would attend at the next examination.

COMBINATION AGAINST A FOREMAN.

COMBINATION AGAINST A FOREMAN.—David Ryan, a labourer, was charged as follows:—Mr. George Hotton, foreman in the employ of Messrs. Scriveners and White, builders, at some works going on in Riding-house-street (the building of the Portland British School) said the prisoner was engaged at the works as a labourer, and he had to discharge him in consequence of his absenting himself drinking. On his doing so the prisoner said, "You —, you discharge me and I'll knock your brains out," and then struck him in the face and turned him out of the office. Thomas Roskilling, one of the warrant officers, said that when he went to execute the warrant he was surrounded by the friends of the prisoner. The prisoner, who was very violent, made a rush at the witness Facey, who would have been violently handled but for his (Roskilling's) interference. Mr. Tyrwhitt said he considered the assault a very bad one, inasmuch as it was setting a bad example to the other men, and was likely to entail a feeling of insubordination amongst them. He should, therefore, fine the prisoner 5l, or two months' imprisonment.

WORSHP STREET.

ROBBERY WITH VIOLENCE.—George Murphy, a powerful and ruffian-like looking man of 30, was charged with violently assaulting and stealing from the person. Mrs. Lizz's Magee, a very delicate, ladylike person, who said that her husband was a clerk residing in Acorn-street, Bishopsgate, was, on the evening of the 17th instant, in the act of entering the Commercial Hotel, not far from her home, when she was suddenly and severely struck in the face by the prisoner. Two other men also assaulted her. Her head was held back, and a gold brooch forcibly taken from her dress front, as likewise a half-crown from her hand. The prisoner wore a white jacket, and as he ran off with the others she had a distinct view of him, and would swear he was the man who struck her in the face, the mark of which blow she pointed out to the police shortly afterwards. The waiter at the Commercial Hotel also identified the prisoner as one of those engaged in the outrage, and it was shown that the fellow had been taken into custody from the accurate description given of him by the prosecutrix. He did not deny being one of the three, but denied the robbery, and in defence said, "This lady was coming towards me; I could see that she was intoxicated, and tried to avoid her, but she came rolling up against me in a most improper manner. Ah, you need not stand smiling there, ma'am, you know it is true, and I certainly did smack her face, and that was all; as for robbery, I never thought of such a thing." Mr. Ellison: I commit you for trial at the Old Bailey, and will tell you that I don't place the slightest belief in your vile and scandalous imputation against this lady's character.

Perhaps it is a good thing for you that I have not to deal with this case. You have been here before. Take him away.

TEAMES.

IN SEARCH OF A SITUATION WITH THE BEST OF CHARACTERS.—Ann Bryant, a young Irish woman, was brought before Mr. Partridge charged with stealing £2 in gold, two gold rings, a piece of cloth, a cloth jacket and a shawl from No. 25, Scarborough-street, Tenter-ground, Whitechapel. In October last the prisoner was in the service of Mr. and Mrs. Proops, in Scarborough-street, for one week only. The prisoner got up early one morning before her master and mistress, lighted a fire in the kitchen, placed an infant before it, regardless of the imminent danger of its destruction, and then absconded, taking with her the money and property above named. Search was made for the prisoner, and the police were after her for some time, but there were no tidings of her until Friday. Mrs. Proops put a bill in the window of her present residence, No. 8, Fieldgate-street, Whitechapel-road, which stated that a servant of all work was required, and to apply within. In the afternoon the prisoner entered the house of the prosecutor, and said she was in search of a situation, with the best of "character" for honesty, sobriety, and steadiness, and that she had been living with a lady in Houndsditch. "Indeed," said Mrs. Jessy Proops, the former mistress of the prisoner; "then you don't know me?" "Never saw you wid me eyesight before," replied the prisoner. "Then I know you," was the rejoinder of Mrs. Proops. "You robbed me last October," and forthwith gave her into the custody of William Hine, a police-constable, No. 114 H, who found upon her thirty-eight pawn tickets for various articles, including a shawl, a jacket, and other things, similar to those missed by Mrs. Proops. The prisoner told the constable that she might have lived at 25, Scarborough-street, but had no recollection whatever of Mrs. Proops. She now denied having seen her before, and said Mrs. Proops was mistaken. Mrs. Proops was sure of the prisoner's identity. Mr. Partridge directed the constable and Mrs. Proops to examine the articles in pawn, and remanded the prisoner.

SOUTHWARK.

A RUSSIAN HUSBAND.—Thomas Nowall, an engineer, was charged with brutally assaulting Ann Nowall, his wife, and striking her on the head and body with a heavy fire shovel. The complainant, who exhibited marks of violence on her arms and body, said that on Sunday afternoon her husband came home about three o'clock, and without her saying a word abused her and struck her several times with his fist. She tried to get out of his way when he ran after her and kicked her down stairs, and struck her again. She rushed into her landlady's room for protection, when he followed her there, snatched up a heavy fire-shovel, and struck her several times with it on her head and body, injuring her severely. He then followed her into the street, and had not a constable come up she was afraid he would have murdered her. The prisoner had been drinking, but he knew well what he was about. He had beaten her on several occasions, and at one time she was compelled to keep her bed for a week. The landlady of the house, "said she saw prisoner follow his wife into her room, and beat her most unmercifully with a fire shovel. In answer to the charge the prisoner said his wife abused him when he came home about the dinner being spoilt, and that he struck her, but not very violently. Mr. Woolrych sentenced him to six months' hard labour.

GREENWICH.

EXTRAORDINARY CAREER OF A FEMALE SERVANT.—Sarah Meade, a respectable-looking young woman, who stated her age to be 26, but who appeared much younger, was brought up for final examination, charged with robbing her master, Mr. Harger, an architect, of 22, Circus-street, Greenwich, of money and a large quantity of miscellaneous property, including thirty-one water-colour drawings. The particulars of the case, as disclosed in evidence, and from inquiries instituted by the police, are of an extraordinary character. At the age of eleven years the prisoner was found in the streets of Whitechapel in a deplorable state of destitution, and as it appeared she had neither father nor mother living, the Society for the Protection of Young Females was communicated with, and she was sent to the society's training school, in the neighbourhood of Brighton. There she remained until of sufficient age to enter service, and a situation was obtained for her in the family of a lady at Brighton, where she remained for some considerable time. She received a character on leaving, which enabled her to obtain another situation, but from this period she appears to have remained but a few weeks at different situations she filled at Finchley, and other suburbs of London. In November last she entered the service of the prosecutor as nurse, a written character being received with her. In consequence of various articles being missed, including between £6 and £7 in threepenny and fourpenny pieces, contained in three linen bags, she had notice to leave, which notice expired on the 31st March. On the evening of that day, prior to leaving, the prosecutor expressed his intention of having her boxes examined; and on this being done the water-colour drawings named in the charge and a variety of other articles, including one of the three bags which had contained the threepenny and fourpenny pieces were found; and a grocer in the neighbourhood deposited that two months since he exchanged threepenny pieces to the amount of 10s. for the prisoner. Whilst the prosecutor was consulting a friend what he should do, the prisoner abruptly left the house, leaving her boxes. On the following Monday she applied at this court for the magistrate's advice as to the best course to pursue to obtain possession of her boxes, and was referred to the County Court. Nothing more was seen of the prisoner until a few evenings since, when she called at prosecutor's house and demanded her boxes, and was given into custody. Mr. Blackett, draper and outfitter, of 31, West Smithfield, City, now attended and identified a large quantity of articles, consisting of silk dress pieces, children's clothing, books, &c., found in the prisoner's boxes as his property, the prisoner having been six weeks in his service, but leaving in August last. The magistrate declined to deal with the case summarily, and the prisoner was fully committed for trial at the next Old Bailey Sessions.

A SYSTEMATIC THIEF.—Mary Ann Warwick, aged thirty-six, describing herself as a hawker, of High-street, Woolwich, and who had an infant in her arms, was charged with stealing various articles from the house of the Rev. T. O. Hines, of Richmond-place, Sydenham. It appeared that between three and four o'clock in the afternoon Ann Hutchings, servant to the prosecutor, entered the kitchen of the house, and perceiving dirt on the window-sill and also inside the kitchen on the floor, she looked round and saw that the drawers had been opened, and various articles stolen. At this moment she caught sight of the prisoner in the grounds of the house, and called to her, upon which the prisoner produced some haberdashery in a basket, and wished her to make a purchase. The servant told the prisoner that the house had been recently robbed, and requested the prisoner, if she was not the thief, to stop and prove her innocence, and she would go and inform her master. The prisoner replied that she had not been in the grounds two minutes, and then went away, the Rev. Mr. Hines afterwards following and stopping her in an adjoining lane. The prisoner at first denied having stolen anything, but ultimately produced two table-cloths, a dresser-cloth, two dresses, and other articles, and fell on her knees and begged forgiveness, but the rev. gentleman, believing she was a practised thief, detained her until the arrival of a constable, when she was given into custody. Ling, a plain-clothes constable of the B division, said the prisoner had been at least a dozen times convicted, twice under the Criminal Justice Act, for robbery from dwellings under pretence of hawking. She was then committed for trial at the Old Bailey sessions.

COUNTRY SKETCHES.

HERNE CHURCH, KENT.

AMONG other pleasant places in Kent, for a spring visit, Herne Bay is well worthy of attention. Herne takes its name from the Saxon word *hærne*, a nook or corner. The village of Herne is of tolerable size. Its church, of which we give an illustration, is a large and handsome building, decorated and perpendicular in style, dedicated to St. Martin, and consisting of a nave, north and south chancels, square perpendicular tower, &c. The octagonal stone font is decorated. The brasses are in tolerable preservation, and commemorate John Darley, vicar, Peter Hall, d. 1420, and Elizabeth, his wife—the former a good specimen of complete plate armour; Lady Flaccus, d. 1589; and Christian Phelps, d. 1470, whose husband was the Lord Mayor of London who led the London trainbands to the field of Barnet, and was knighted for his services. His hands are outspread, so as to form a cross, and the inscription calls upon us to "pray for the soul" of the worshipful.

Nicholas Ridley, the Protestant martyr, Bishop of Rochester, was vicar here from 1858 to 1849, and caused the "Te Deum Laudamus" to be sung in Herne church for the first time in English. On taking his farewell of the benefice, he thus addressed his parishioners: "Farewell, Herne, thou worshipful and wealthy parish, the first cure whereunto I was called to minister God's word. Thou hast heard of my mouth oftentimes the word of God preached, not after the Popish trade, but after God's gospel. Oh, that the fruit had answered to the seed! But I bless God for all that godly virtue and zeal of God's word, which the Lord, by preaching of his word, did kindle manifestly both in the heart and the life of that godly woman there, my Lady Flaccus."

Near the church is Stroud Park, a pleasant estate enough, and to the south-east, across Herne-common, lie the remains of Ford Palace, the most ancient (except Canterbury) of the archiepiscopal residences once attached to the primacy. It was almost entirely rebuilt by Archbishop Moreton, temp. Henry VII. Here, in 1544, Cranmer entertained the portly defender of the faith, and here, in 1552, he revised the articles of the Protestant faith, with the assistance of Vicar Ridley. Here, too, on the accession of Queen Mary, he was arrested, and removed to the Tower.

Archbishop Parker solicited Elizabeth for permission to enlarge the archiepiscopal palace at Bekebourne, and pull down this of Ford, which he represented as "old, decayed, wasteful, unwholesome, and desolate," but the queen would not consent. Whitgift was wont to hunt in its park, and Archbishop Abbot selected it for his place of retirement after his unintentional homicide at Bramshill, Hampshire, where, while shooting with Lord Zouch, his arrow unfortunately smote a keeper to the death. Ford was demolished, and its materials sold, by order of the parliament, and though restored to the see of Canterbury by Charles II., has never since been "re-edified." Part of the old gateway still remains.

Herne Bay, a favourite watering-place, founded in 1880, may be reached by a field-path or by the high road. It is nearly two miles from Herne



COUNTRY SKETCHES.—HERNE CHURCH, KENT.



COUNTRY SKETCHES.—ST. AUGUSTINE'S GATE, CANTERBURY.

village; occupies a sheltered and agreeable situation, has excellent sands, is "quiet" to a fault, commands a magnificent sea-view, and boasts of a pier 3,640 feet long, built by Telford in 1831-2, and a marine parade one mile in length, and fifty feet in breadth. Canary grass, first introduced at Sandwich by the Flemish refugees, is much cultivated in this neighbourhood. On the Pudding Pan rock, it is supposed, a Roman galley loaded with pottery was wrecked, as the Whitstable fishermen often dredge up fragments of red Samian ware.

ST. AUGUSTINE'S GATE.

THE Pagan temple on the road to Rotupis, in which Ethelbert and his predecessors had sacrificed to the mysterious deities of the old Norse religion, was consecrated by St. Augustine as a church in honour of St. Peter and Paul, the patron saints of Rome. When restored and enlarged by Archbishop Dunstan, in 978, to these two saints was added one of later canonization, Augustine himself, and the monastery became known by his name rather than by the names of his predecessors. It flourished amazingly until Henry VIII. laid his heavy hand upon it, and then it rapidly passed away from the face of the earth. The only remains of the monastery are some Norman details, insignificant in extent;

and of the church the refectory, the entrance gateway (shown in our engraving), the graveyard gate, and sometime-worn walls. The gate of entrance dates from 1310. The graveyard gate, 1399.

After the suppression, the monastic buildings were for a while converted into a palatial residence, where Charles I. entertained Henrietta Maria after their first interview at Dover.

In 1841-8, the Missionary College was erected on this site.

The first great historical event with which Canterbury associates itself, is the Advent of St. Augustine. He had landed at Ebbsfleet, in the Isle of Thanet; he had left, as it was said, his footprint on the solid rock; he had held his memorable meeting with "the son of the Ash-tree" on the hill which overlooks Ramsgate and Pegwell Bay; he had crossed the broad ferry of the Bour to Richborough, or Relesborough, and advanced by the old Roman road, then bordered with fine overhanging woods, to St. Martin's height, where pious Queen Bertha and her French chaplain, Bishop Lindhard, had already dedicated a simple fane to the true God. "Then, in the valley below, on the banks of the river, appeared the city—the rude wooden city as it then was—embosomed in thickets." As soon as the great missionary chief and his forty monks perceived it, they arranged themselves into an imposing procession. In this way they came down St. Martin's-hill, and entered Canterbury. The first place Ethelbert gave them was "Stable Gate,"—by an old heathen temple, near the present St. Alphage's Church—at which place they rested or "stabled" until he had decided upon his future course. In due time they were allowed to worship openly at St. Martin's and "no doubt the mere splendour and strangeness of the Roman ritual produced an instant effect on the rude barbarian mind."

TOWN SKETCHES.

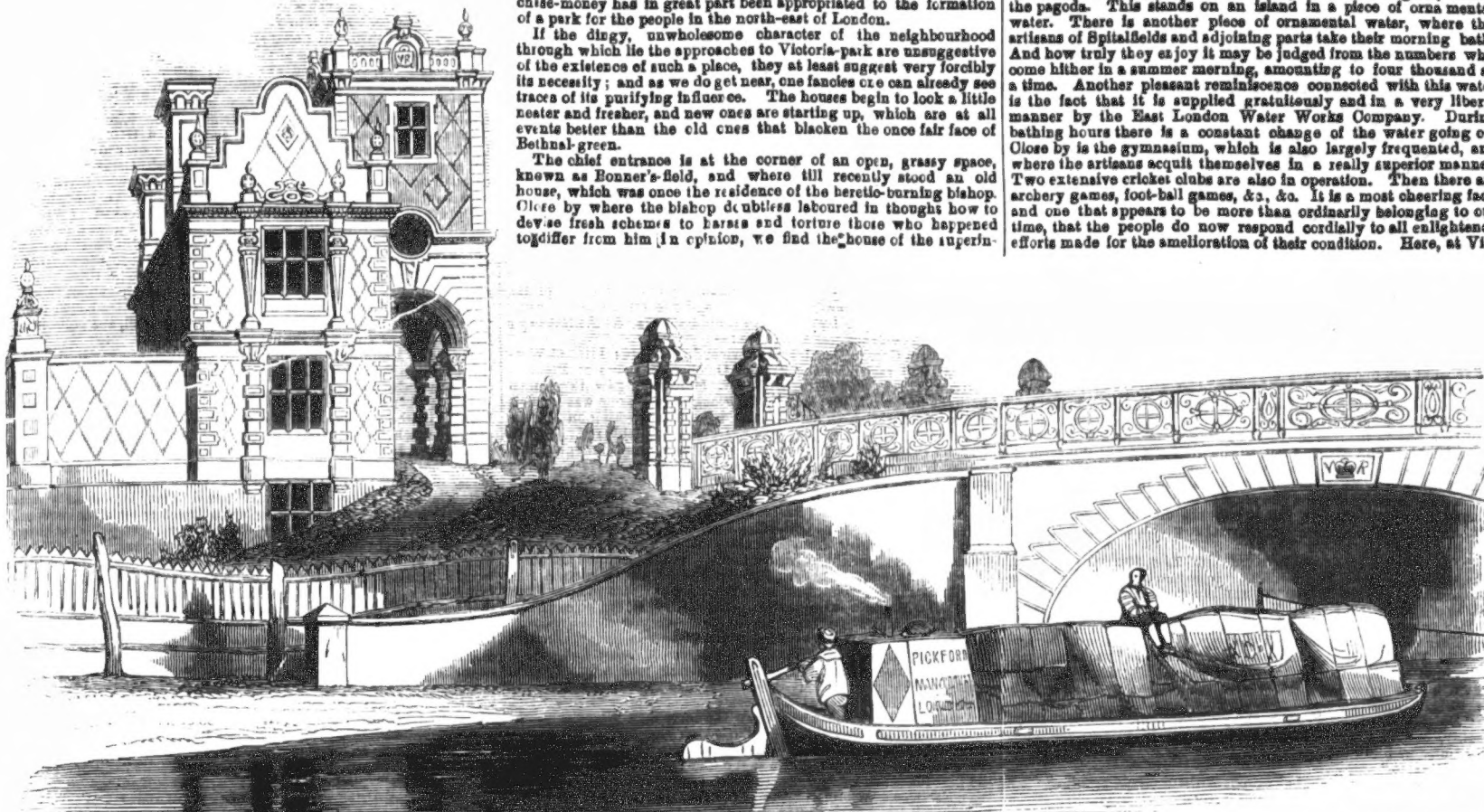
ENTRANCE TO VICTORIA PARK.

In 1841 the Government sold York House, on the verge of St. James's-park, to the Duke of Sutherland, for £72,000. The purchase-money has in great part been appropriated to the formation of a park for the people in the north-east of London.

If the dingy, unwholesome character of the neighbourhood through which lie the approaches to Victoria-park are unsuggestive of the existence of such a place, they at least suggest very forcibly its necessity; and as we do get near, one fancies one can already see traces of its purifying influence. The houses begin to look a little neater and fresher, and new ones are starting up, which are at all events better than the old ones that blacken the once fair face of Bethnal-green.

The chief entrance is at the corner of an open, grassy space, known as Bonner's-field, and where till recently stood an old house, which was once the residence of the heretic-burning bishop. Close by where the bishop doubtless laboured in thought how to devise fresh schemes to harass and torture those who happened to differ from him in opinion, we find the house of the superin-

tendent of the park. His house is attached to the entrance gateway, and forms, altogether, a pretty, picturesque, but not very solid-looking structure, where Tudor and modern architecture mix together in a manner pleasing enough, if not very artistic. Crowning the bridge over the canal, just within the gates, we see the pagoda. This stands on an island in a piece of ornamental water. There is another piece of ornamental water, where the artisans of Spitalfields and adjoining parts take their morning bath. And how truly they enjoy it may be judged from the numbers who come hither in a summer morning, amounting to four thousand at a time. Another pleasant reminiscence connected with this water is the fact that it is supplied gratuitously and in a very liberal manner by the East London Water Works Company. During bathing hours there is a constant change of the water going on. Close by is the gymnasium, which is also largely frequented, and where the artisans acquit themselves in a really superior manner. Two extensive cricket clubs are also in operation. Then there are archery games, foot-ball games, &c. &c. It is a most cheering fact, and one that appears to be more than ordinarily belonging to our time, that the people do now respond cordially to all enlightened efforts made for the amelioration of their condition. Here, at Vic-



torial-park, behold that fact illustrated by the presence of 30,000 visitors in a single summer's day. Another interesting period is the children's day, that is Wednesday afternoon, when they have their half-holiday from school.

The entire cost of the Victoria-park has amounted to a little more than £50,000; the annual expense is about £2,000.

TOWN SKETCHES.—THE ENTRANCE TO VICTORIA PARK.

Literature.

ONE DAY.

I HAD begun to think that my life was not a blossoming plant, when suddenly it burst into flower between two radiant midnights. For when you speak of days, you mean the nights, of course; just as when you speak of a fair face, you mean also the shining hair that shadows it. So by that one day I mean not only its golden sunshine, but the trailing purple dusk full of stars.

Madame very readily excused me from going to the theatre with her in July. "It is, as you say, too warm, my dear; but I must positively go. *Au revoir!* And, Violet, wear white to-morrow morning if you are fresh; but if you are pale, put on rose-colour."

Then the carriage rolled away to town, and I was left alone in the great house. A strange restlessness possessed me as night came on, a presentiment of something about to happen, an expectation half pleasurable, half painful, and altogether exciting. Voices seemed to come from the trumpet blossoms of the honeysuckle that swung their heavy sweetness in through my casement; there was a great buzz and whispering in the old lindens that stood in a close group at the corner of the house nearest me; there was a peculiar significance in the sleepy chirp of a bird, here and there awakened by the fall of a scented dewdrop on his downy neck, or the flit of a broad-winged moth past his nest.

Just after the stroke of midnight there was a softened roll of wheels up the gravel road to the east door. Then half an hour of silence. Then a firm, man's tread past my door, and somebody went into the tower-chamber. Madame must have brought out Cousin Leo to study cultivated nature on her beautiful estate. She always found fault with his wild mountain and forest pictures, and persisted that a portrait-painter might as well paint nothing but milkmaids as a landscape-painter confine himself to "Nature unadorned." Dear, glorious old Leo! I was so glad he had come.

I leaned from my casement, and pushing aside the dewy, flowering vines, looked along the balcony that ran past my room to the tower-chamber. There, too, leaned a figure looking out into the fragrant dusk of the gardens, and up into the purple sky that was all alive with stars. I put a hand each side of my mouth to convey the sound, and in a stage-whisper, which I had learned from Rachel, sent a "Welcome, and good night!" across.

The figure started slightly, hesitated, then a low-toned "Good night," answered me.

If I had broken the thread of some golden, poetic musing, I knew that his love would invest the very breaking with a brightness, as sunshine starts into a new sparkle on the fracture of a gem. Then I went back and sank content among my pillows, drifting slowly off to the land of dreams.

The honeysuckles were all abuzz with humming-birds when I woke the next morning, and a long beam of early sunshine, crimson as a rose, came through the wide-open casement, and seemed to fall into flaming power in the lace of my bed-curtains. I lay and let it creep down toward me, and listened to hear Leo come out. He always took the cream of the morning, but, perhaps, having been so late, he would over-sleep. It seemed so. There was no stir nor sound from his chamber, and presently I rose and dressed, remembering madame's injunction, and wearing white since I found myself bright. I fastened a narrow band of dark purple velvet around my head, and looped my yellow air with it to bring out all the gold. Then, throwing aside my blue cordeliere, I wore a girdle of ivy-leaves from a plant that grew on the balcony, and made a bower for my pet canary-bird whose gilded cage shone through the

glossy greenness. Lastly I twirled slowly round and round before my Psyche-glass to see that all was right. Leo always noticed my dress, and I liked to please him.

Leo was flowery and fanciful in his talk to me. He called me Pansy instead of Violet, because my eyes were purple, and sometimes Anemone, because he said my frail whiteness reminded him of a blossom that a breeze could break. And when the colour got flickering into my face he would call me Aurora Borealis; but we always quarrelled about the Borealis, because I insisted that there was nothing cold about me, and that the purest flames are pale. And he called me Fairy for my slender lightness, though I was as tall as the Medician Venus. In short he enveloped me in his lovely and sparkling fancies, till I was like Undine in the fountain, and I loved him like a brother, and father, and friend, and in all sorts of ways except as a lover, and that he didn't want.

Indeed, I hadn't much thought of lovers, and was content with hero-worship, setting up little niches in my heart for various great souls, antique and modern, which gave me no trouble at all, as lovers might have done. Perhaps there was one exception, though. There was one man who didn't stay loftily on his pedestal, as he should have done, but who had a way of stepping off and wandering into my daily thoughts, touching trivial, familiar things, and giving me strange feelings which I couldn't account for—an unrest that was better than tranquillity, a delight that had a sting of pain, and a pain that was full of delight. But, perhaps, this was because Mr. Vandenhoff was not a man of distant times and places, but one whom I had met in real life, whose hand I had touched, whose voice I had heard in private life, as well as from the platform whence his voice was a power in any cause.

Presently, getting tired of waiting, I went out and down stairs. Nobody stirring but servants, who, in some dim, early watches of the morning had set everything shining, and then retired to their own precincts.

I went into the conservatory and gathered flowers for the breakfast table. For Leo I broke a single pansy as yellow as gold, and for myself a cluster of rosy oleanders.

No one appearing yet, I caught my guitar and went out, placing myself before the balcony looking up at the arched window of the tower-chamber, and striking a few chords, began to sing.

A hand put back the fluttering muslin drapery, a tall head bowed to avoid the eash, and Philip Vandenhoff stepped out to the balcony, and made me a courteous though laughing salute. The guitar fell from my hands, and I felt myself blushing as though a pink veil had been thrown over me.

"I am sorry to disappoint you," he said, leaning over the balustrade and looking at me with bright eyes.

"I thought it was Cousin Leo who came," I stammered.

"I knew last night that you mistook me," he said, still smiling, his face glowing with mischief and pleasure. "But you know the proverb that 'stolen fruit is sweet.' I found it so. May I come down to you and ask pardon for the involuntary cheat?"

We walked up and down the garden till madame's clear, sweet voice called from the piazza, "Violet, do you and Mr. Vandenhoff breakfast upon dewdrops?"

We went in at that, and I gladly took refuge in silence and listened to their talk.

"May I keep it?" asked Mr. Vandenhoff, in a low aside to me, touching the golden pansy as we rose from the table.

"If you like," I answered; "but if I had known I would have brought laurel instead."

"This is better. 'Pansies for thoughts.' A golden pansy is a thought with a bright hope shining over it, the very sunshine of the mind. I take it as an omen." And he fastened it securely in the button-hole of his vest.

We wandered into the conservatory, and when it became too warm there, strolled out into the garden. I took a rustic seat, formed of the roots of trees so artfully as to look as if they grew there, and Mr. Vandenhoff threw himself on to the green moss near, leaning back against a pine trunk.

"It is so seldom that I get out of the dust and clamour of the world, that I know how to appreciate this," he said, with a long sigh of perfect content. "It is like a draught of cool water in the desert."

"But your life is not a desert," I said. "It must often be hard for you; but that cannot be a desert in which so many find springs of refreshment."

He gave me a smile of gentle thankfulness. "I hope some do and themselves refreshed," he said; "but, though my head improves, my heart sometimes feels parched and thirsty."

He leaned back, and, closing his eyes, seemed to fall into a pleasant reverie.

I broke a large wild leaf that grew close to the ground, and, drawing a bodkin from my hair, pricked it into a line; then raised my eyes to see Mr. Vandenhoff watching me.

"See, the leaf faints and dies in the heat," he said, as I dropped it.

"Why did you take its life?"

"It dies of a thought that was pierced in it," I said.

"Better die of a thought than live a mere vegetable life."

He took up the leaf, and read the line, then leaning impulsively forward, kissed my hand before I was aware, resuming his position immediately, and closing his eyes again without having looked in my face.

The morning breeze faded, and the air grew sultry and heavy. We went into the house for coolness, and sat in the shady library. Mr. Vandenhoff took an arm-chair near my sofa, and sat telling me of his home and childhood, of his father and mother, now both dead, and of the influences and thoughts that had gradually developed his life and character.

I did not ask myself why this man thus unveiled his inner life to me, was not even conscious of any surprise at the time, but sat and listened, drinking in every word, daring to watch his face since he scarcely looked at me, but fixed his eyes far away on the blue hills of which we got a glimpse through the trees, and seeming to be rather thinking aloud than speaking. But when I spoke a word, he smiled, and seemed always conscious of me. I did not know how the time had sped, but when madame came down in a grand toilet, looking scarcely thirty, though she was over fifty, I seemed to know all this man's life outward and inward, all his aspirations, all his intentions. Our acquaintance had been short, and entirely conventional, but I could scarcely believe that I had not known him all my life.

"Why, Violet, dear! in morning dress yet?" cried madame, in pretty horror, holding up two white, jewelled hands. "And it's five o'clock! The Berkleys and Champneys are coming out, may be here any moment, and dinner will be ready in an hour."

I started up, laughing, to retrieve my heinous offence against the etiquette of the toilet.

"Why need she dress again?" interposed Mr. Vandenhoff, also rising. "Nothing can be cooler or prettier than what she wears now."

"In matters of state we bow to you, sir," said madame, with an air of graceful arrogance; "but in dress you men must acknowledge our superiority. I don't doubt that you will find Violet vastly improved by her toilet. Make haste, Pansy." "Pat on your green tissue," she whispered, as I passed her, giving my hand a delighted squeeze. "And wear a wreath of lilies of the valley with their leaves. You are looking divinely this evening."

Well might I look divinely when I had been talking with Philip

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